

Style *at Home*

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DECEMBER 2015

STYLISH HOMES AFFORDABLE IDEAS

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Inside...

Perfect festive homes

Budget decor ideas

Xmas crafts from £1

STUNNING!

7 TREE TRENDS



HOT OFF THE HIGH STREET

NEW IN 100 XMAS BUYS FROM 99p

KAREN SAYS:
'I'm thrilled with my living room!'

634
SPECIAL IDEAS
for your best Christmas!

SAVE 20%
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TABLE SETTINGS TO IMPRESS!



PLUS! RECIPE GUIDE

- ★ Easy Christmas Dinner ideas
- ★ 30 Foodie Gifts under £35!



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DECK THE HALLS

Get a head start on the holidays and give your home a Yuletide makeover with our festive ideas – plus, treat the family to some classic recipes!



Hi there!

Christmas is on its way, with the promise of joyous celebrations among beloved family and friends – how excited am I? I **love the festive season** and feel very lucky that, in my role as editor of *Style at Home*, I'm able to see all the wonderful new decorations before they hit the shops, and get to choose my faves to share with you, too! Christmas is perfect for trying out a bit of styling at home. So, to help you along, we've crammed this issue full of ideas. Try cover star Karen's **soft pink and sparkling silver theme** for a gorgeous living room look (p96), or take inspiration from Emily and **go for a traditional finish** (p26). You'll love the stunning trees styled by our *Stylists at Home* ladies, showcasing seven new trends from the supermarket and high-street brands (p17). And if that wasn't enough, we've packed in **100 seasonal buys starting from only 80p** – flick to page 74 to pick your favourites. We've also got **ideas for dressing the table** (p58), tree decs you can make yourself (p90) and a **Christmas countdown** to help you plan (p84). Finally, what else makes this the best time of the year? Oh, the glorious food, of course! So tuck into our fab 12-page pull-out, filled with **delicious recipes**. A very merry Christmas to you all!

lizzie

Lizzie Hudson, Acting Editor



SUBSCRIBE!

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SEND US PICTURES OF YOUR HOME AND YOU COULD FEATURE IN A FUTURE ISSUE OF YOUR FAVOURITE MAGAZINE!

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DECK THE HALLS
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Tweet us your comments at **@styleathomemag** - we'd love to hear what you think of your favourite magazine!

What caught your eye first, the kitchen or the price?



Made in the uk

All these Edwardian Cream Matt
kitchen units for just*

£1,589

Affordable luxury.

55 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE
visit wrenkitchens.com

* Priced kitchen is for units only and does not include the price of any handles, worktops, appliances, sink, tap, props, accessories or small worktop appliances. Must be purchased in the exact configuration as offered by Wren. No substitutions or alterations can be made.



Meet the team

Every issue, we have a little extra help, thanks to our seven *Stylists at Home*. Meet them here and find their comments in the magazine...

Carrie Parsons



ABOUT ME I'm 30 and I live with my husband Kiran, 30, and our daughters Evie, four, and Mia, one, in a three-bed, 1950s semi in Suffolk.
WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU BOUGHT? An ornate golden mirror for my daughter Evie's new bedroom. She wants a princess theme and it will make the perfect magic mirror!

Shelley Price



ABOUT ME I'm 35 and I live with my partner Tim, 36, and our children Thomas, four, and Jessica, one, in a three-bed cottage in Surrey.
WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU BOUGHT? A Chesterfield Queen Anne wingback ox-blood chair and footstool. I love looking around charity shops and on eBay for unique pieces.

Sabrina Jillah



ABOUT ME I'm 36 and I live with my husband Ganesh, 37, and our son Tyler, three, in a two-bed new-build apartment in Berkshire.
WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU BOUGHT? Kallax storage units from Ikea for my son's bedroom. We picked up some colourful boxes as well, which hide away all the toys!

Samantha Theakstone



ABOUT ME I'm 30 and I live with my husband David, 37, and our labrador Dexter, in a four-bed semi-detached in East Yorkshire.
WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU BOUGHT? We just finished our kitchen/lounge area by redecorating and adding a lovely woodburner, which makes it nice and cosy.

Rachel Brooks



ABOUT ME I'm 28 and I've moved back home with my parents John, 62, and Helen, 57, in Surrey while I save up to buy a flat.
WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU BOUGHT? I'm on the lookout for furniture to upcycle for when I move. I recently bought a 1960s bureau, which I'm going to paint a soft grey.

Danni Tresadern



ABOUT ME I'm 30 and I live with my husband Simon, 40, and our daughter Evie, two, in a three-bed house in West Sussex.
WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU BOUGHT? A small sign saying 'Life is beautiful', which completes our green wall scheme. I love shops like TK Maxx for unique finds.

Jay Urquhart-Pettifer



ABOUT ME I'm 36 and I live with my husband Anthony, 57, our daughter Cleopatra, 15, and our cat Smithy in a three-bed 1940s house in the West Midlands.
WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU BOUGHT? A vintage swan planter for my kitchen table. I have quite an eclectic taste and love buying retro and second-hand buys.

Become a Stylist at Home

Sign up to our *Stylists at Home* club. You'll receive bonus offers and special treats, plus you could appear in a future issue of your favourite magazine. Email stylistsathome@timeinc.com to join!



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#askSAH

Q I don't have room for a traditional Christmas tree but would love to create a focal point. Any tips for an alternative display with wow factor?

ANNA HOPPEN, TORQUAY

There is so much you can do to create a festive feel without having a tree itself. You could affix Christmas cards to the wall in the shape of a tree, hang fairy lights in a zigzag fashion, or paint on a tree and tack baubles and decs to it – for a less permanent option, paint onto a large sheet of card instead. Pop pressies alongside it and you'll have a perfect focal point in no time.

Got a burning styling question?

Tweet it to editor Lizzie

@styleathomemag.

She's on hand with all the answers!



Tweets we love

@carol_underwood

Thanks for the great ideas in your magazine
@styleathomemag

@janewest4318

Curled up on sofa with my November issue, loving it
#cosythrow #coffeeinhand

@littlemoos_

Got 10 mins so gonna read *Style at Home* – love it!
@styleathomemag

WE'VE GOT MAIL

'I've been making and upcycling things since the 1970s and get lots of ideas and inspiration from my grandsons when they come over after school. I'm particularly fond of quilling (the process of rolling, shaping and glueing strips of paper into a decorative design) and have created a lot of artwork using this technique.'

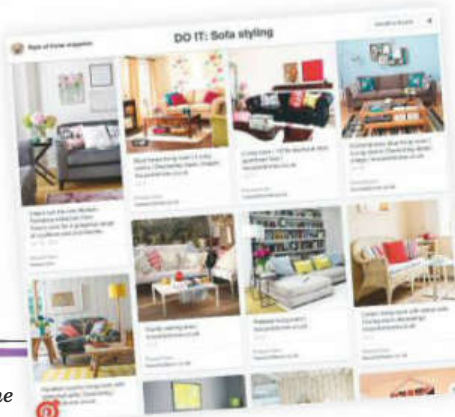
JUANITA JAIN, BRISTOL



MOST REPINNED

Check out the *Style at Home* Pinterest page for lots more decorating inspiration and interior ideas. Our Sofa Styling board is packed with unique ways to give your living room the perfect snuggly spot for winter.

Follow us at **pinterest.com/styleathomemag**



This month...

Like us on Facebook and share your style tips, makeovers and crafty projects. Here's one of our latest posts – a sneak peek at our ideas for making your home cosy this winter. Follow us at facebook.com/styleathomemag



GET STYLE AT HOME ON YOUR TABLET!
 DOWNLOAD THE NEW ISSUE DIRECT TO YOUR DEVICE
 FROM housetohome.co.uk/styleathome



WEEKLY TREAT

Can't wait for the next issue? Sign up for our free weekly email newsletter and have all the latest styling news, decorating ideas, amazing offers and so much more delivered straight to your inbox.

Sign up at housetohome.co.uk/thehomestylist and get this week's issue!



Hello,

If you're anything like us, you'd love to be curled up in this cosy bed right now ready for those cold nights ahead. We've picked six things we get excited about in autumn, take a look and see if you agree. This week our November issue hits the shops – don't forget your copy. We've got a marshmallow cake recipe you'll love and 7 makeovers to inspire you. So, put your feet up and enjoy!

Love, the Style At Home team



YOU DID IT!

@DANNI
TREVZ

Danni's mum, Avril, made this beautiful winter wreath to decorate the hallway



@HATTYS
ATTIC

We love the patchwork design on this upcycled chest of drawers!

Share your latest crafty projects with us on Instagram using hashtags #stylistsmakes or #stylistrevamps



Our top 5... QUICK FESTIVE UPDATES

- 1 String Christmas cards together along lengths of ribbon to create your own seasonal bunting.
- 2 Have a go at making your own wreath using a polystyrene ring and wrapping with ribbons, fabric scraps or paper.
- 3 Using thumbtacks, hang baubles from ribbons along the window recess to create a pretty display.
- 4 Make your own seasonal cushion covers for December using festive fabrics.
- 5 Add decorations to all the rooms in your house to ensure a jolly theme throughout.

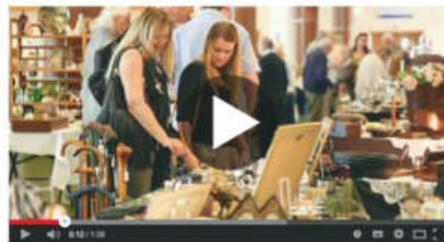
Join the conversation at [Facebook.com/styleathomemag](https://facebook.com/styleathomemag) and share your styling tips!



BLOG LOVIN'

This month, we look at how to dress your windows with the latest collection of blinds from Hillarys.

Check it out now and follow us for plenty of other exciting news, the latest trends, and more styling tips for your home at cushienumber.co.uk



Tune in

Missed last issue's £20 challenge? See how *Style at Home*'s Laurie and Emily got on when they visited Epsom Racecourse Antiques & Collectables Fair. Watch the video now at housetohome.co.uk/styleathome



Unilever

RESCUING *the* BLAND



Seasonal cheer

With Christmas fast approaching, it's time to dust off the decs and give your home a Yuletide makeover! For colourful, affordable table decorations, try spray-painting old baubles in a bright shade or dying plain napkins. See our Pinterest page for more festive ideas at pinterest.com/styleathomemag



THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN!

Get ahead of the game and start thinking about writing your Christmas cards. Whether you want to support a good cause by sending charity cards, or are planning on making your own, don't forget to check the costs and last postal dates for the UK and abroad. See our Countdown to Christmas guide on page 84 to make sure you're on track!



THIS MONTH'S pinboard

Our round-up of what to do, where to go and what to look out for this December

WINTER WARMER

High street and online retailer Oliver Bonas has turned Innocent smoothie bottles' knitted hats into life-sized versions to support Age UK's Big Knit campaign. These fun, limited-edition hats come in adult and children's sizes, and £5 from each adult hat (£18) sold and £3 from a child's hat (£12) goes to Age UK.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Get into the festive spirit and head to a National Trust Christmas market or craft workshop. There are lots of events taking place around the country for all the family. Visit nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/whats-on for a full list of dates and venues.

THAT'S A WRAP!

Make gift-giving extra special this Christmas by wrapping presents in totally unique paper, made up of snapshots from your camera, Instagram or Facebook account. Simply upload your favourite photos onto the Wrap.me website and order either rolls or sheets of gift wrap from just £4.99. Head over to Wrap.me for information and to order online.





SOFT SPOT
Cushion, £12

OPEN DAYS
Advent calendar, £8



LIP SERVICE
Sign, £2.50



GREAT FOR KIDS



COSY PUP
Cushion, £6

TESCO

Festive feeling

Bring cheer to your home with these bright buys



COVER UP
Throw, £6



HEAVEN SCENT
Candle, £8

The £35 EDIT

Shopping Editor Laurie has searched the high street and online for this month's festive home buys – all £35 or less



Want it now!

**COUNT DOWN THE HOURS
UNTIL THE BIG DAY WITH
THIS CUTE WOODEN
BIRD TREE CLOCK**

£29.99, Wyevalle Garden Centres

HOUSE OF FRASER

Gold mine

Bling up your table with Biba's sparkling collection



ART DECO STYLE

DISH DASH
Dinnerware, from £10

GLASSACT
Glassware, from £28

LIGHT BITES
Lantern lights, £30;
cake dome, £35



SHINE ON
Placemat, £26 for two

GATHER ROUND

Cushions, from £10; wreath, £30; sack, £5; Santa sign, £3.50, all Tesco

**3 of the best****SALT & PEPPER SHAKERS**

Top off your table with one of these quirky sets



HAT'S CUTE!
£16, Cath Kidston



LET FLY
£5, The Contemporary Home



SHAKE IT
£10, Debenhams

Stylists at Home

CARRIE SAYS
'The Art Deco-style dining set looks stunning and is bound to add a touch of glamour to your Christmas table. The fun cushions are a perfect way of giving your sofa a festive feel.'

WILKO**Good nature**

Go for tactile textures, rustic buys and sweet animal prints

LOVE IN
Wreath, £7



SEE HERE
Lantern, £6



HOG DAYS
Cushion, £7

BRING NATURE INSIDE

**GO WILDLIFE**

Owl canvas, £5; throw, £15; hedgehog doorstop, £8, all Wilko

Cushion CORNER

Treat your sofa to a seasonal update



FLIP SIDE

Penguin cushion, £28, Debenhams



SMALL WONDER

Cushion, £14.99, Dobbies



SLOPE AND GLORY

Let it Snow cushion, £12, Next



WISH UPON A STAR

Christmas wishes cushion, £18, Sainsbury's



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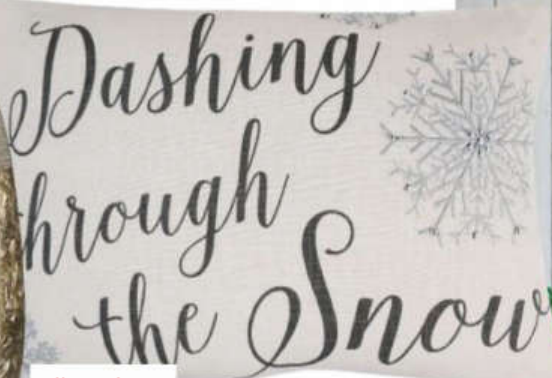
POTLUCK

Vase, £20



ICE WORK

Cushion, £16



BHS

Cool as ice

Pick up a penguin... bed set!

FURRY NICE

Faux sheepskin, £35



CUTE KNIT LOOK!

CARRY ON

Basket, £22 for two



SWEET DREAM

Cake tin, £7.95, Dotcomgiftshop



ON MY RADAR

Folk style

Create a colourful vibe with bright boho pieces

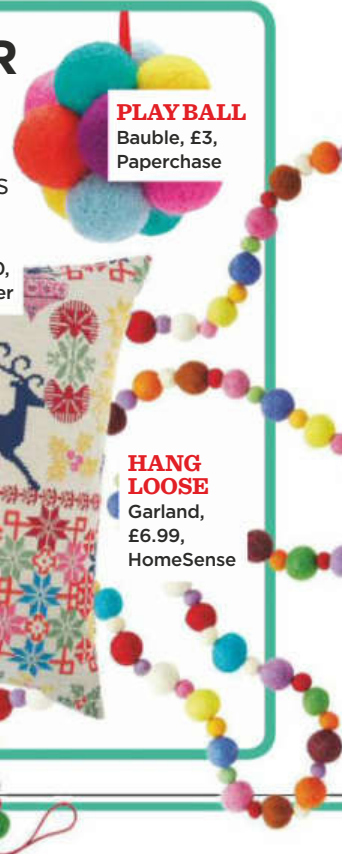
STITCHIT

Cushion, £19.50, Marks & Spencer



PLAY BALL

Bauble, £3, Paperchase



HANG LOOSE

Garland, £6.99, HomeSense

SIZE UP

Russian doll measuring cups, £16.95, House of Bath



FOXY CUP

Mug, £8, Berry Red





POLAR OPPOSITES
Penguin bedding set, from £35, Bhs



Buy it, style it!

HOOK DECORATIONS, TRINKETS AND EVEN A SPRIG OF MISTLETOE FROM THIS SWEET HANGING CALENDAR

Advent calendar £24.99, Retreat Home

WORDS LAURIE DAVIDSON



LET IT SNOW
House globe, £12.99, HomeSense



FEET FIRST
Coir doormat, £15, Notonthehighstreet.com



HANG AROUND
Wooden garland, £12, The Contemporary Home

DUNELM

Get set to dazzle

Impress guests with a rich plum and glitzy gold scheme



HOT BOX
Lantern, £22.99,



REIN IT IN
Glitter reindeer, £5.99

REFLECTED GLORY

Ornate mirrors, £24.99 each; decorations, from 99p, all Dunelm



Stylists at Home



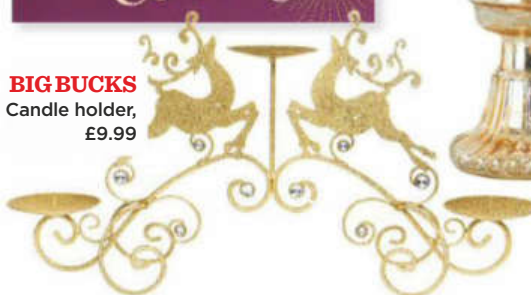
SAMANTHA SAYS

'Build up a cosy scheme in your home by layering wool, faux fur and textured linen cushions and throws to create a cosy nook for a cold winter's night.'



WELL SAID
Canvas, £7.99

BIG BUCKS
Candle holder, £9.99



GREAT CRACKLE LOOK



HOLD FIRE
Candle holder, £12.99

What you
smell.

What your
guests smell.



Have you gone noseblind?

Febreze truly eliminates odours and leaves a light Christmas scent.



Breathe Happy



The **Style**at Home *Christmas tree* **CHALLENGE**

We invited seven of our *Stylists at Home* to each dress a tree with a fabulous festive look



Wintry WONDER

Jay styles a sparkling scene in white with **George Home at Asda**

JAY SAYS

'When I saw all the items, I instantly loved every single thing, especially the glitzy stag head. I adore the finished look – it makes me think of a snowy morning!'



Hit the shops

SPREAD CHEER

Joy light, £20



SHINE BRIGHT

Wooden star light, £10



TREE LIGHT

Wooden light box, £8

6ft Eliza tree, £35; wool onion, stag head, wool star, house, ombre beaded, dipped pearlised and matt-edged **baubles**, all £2 each; lace shatterproof, polar bear and acorn two-pack **baubles**, all £1 each; wool star **tree topper**, £7; Eiffel tower dome, glass bell, polar bear dome **baubles**, glass and ornate **droplets**, all £3 each; owl **snowglobe**, £8; diamante **deer head**, £20; wooden star **light**, £10; penguin **cushion**, £7; silver faux silk **curtains**, from £22; white faux-fur **throw**, £30; metallic **lantern**, large £25 and small £5

Shiny BRIGHTS

Shelley uses eclectic and one-off centrepieces for less at **HomeSense**



SHELLEY SAYS

'I had a great day - it really felt like Christmas unpacking all of the decorations and I loved all the HomeSense decor'

Large white **table**, £39.99; small white **table**, £29.99; purple and white **tray**, £4.99; striped **rug**, £24.99; blue **armchair**, £399; purple **throw**, £19.99; pink **cushion**, £12.99; purple **cushion**, £12.99; tall pillar **candle**, £5.99; teal cat **ornament**, £7.99; blue and pink spotted **teacup**, £3.99; blue **vase**, £7; green **lantern**, £7; novelty **baubles**, from £3.99

Hit the shops

STARRY NIGHT

Hanging bell star decoration, £3.99



WHAT FUN

Assorted novelty baubles, £3.99 each



ON A ROLL

Large paper tree decoration, £7.99

Softly SPARKLE

Sam styles a tree in blush pinks and glittery golds from **Tesco**



SAM SAYS

'My day of styling was so enjoyable from start to finish. I love the glittery robins that sparkle on the tree and the large metallic baubles are fab!'

Hit the shops

SNAP!
Luxury glitter fan crackers, £18 for six

ALL ROSY
Pink pearl glass bauble, £5 for three

TRUE SENTIMENT
Gold word sign, £4

6.5ft Vienna Sparkle tree, £50; pearl star tree topper, £5; gold glitter bird decorations, £3 for two; church decoration, £2; assorted gold baubles 20-pack, £5; gold onion baubles 12-pack, £3; pearlised glass heart decoration, £3.50; butterfly decoration four-pack, £3; floral disc baubles two-pack, £3; luxury gold wreath card, £4 for six; beaded placemat two-pack, £12; gold band side plate, £35 for a 12-piece dinner set; tealight holder, 50p; gift wrap, from £1.50; Sophia pink check wingback chair, £349; cushion, £10; natural faux-fur cushion, £14; throw, £25

Deco GRAND

Rachel creates opulence with gold and peacock decs from M&S

RACHEL SAYS

'The shoot was so much fun! I loved turning a plain tree into a festive delight. I picked up loads of great styling tips and ideas along the way, too. My Christmas list has certainly grown!'



Hit the shops



GOLD RING

Leaf wreath, £39.50



GENTLE FEATHERS

Peacock bauble, £6



FESTIVE FIRS

Gold beaded tree in glass dome, £19.50

Artificial luxury tree, £99; Eltham chair in Lasenby teal, £599; Art Deco floral cushion in teal, £19.50; bantry weave cushion, £12; drinks cabinet, £599; cocktail shaker, £15; martini glasses, £15 for four; coffee table, £299; decorative grand curtains, from £69; wallpaper, £18 per roll; star decoration, £6; baubles: gold glass egg, £6; hand-painted gold feather, £5; hand-painted peacock feather, £6; sequinned onion, £6; turquoise scalloped, £4; gold glitter stag, £25; Naples floor lamp, £149; shine rug, from £139; stag tealight holder, £15; triangular hurricane lantern, £29.50

Woodland DELIGHT

Sabrina dresses the tree to create a cosy home with **Dunelm**



SABRINA SAYS

'It was an amazing experience, like I'd stepped into a winter wonderland! I was so pleased with my finished tree. The squirrels, robins, and reindeer were all so very cute'

Hit the shops



WHAT A HOOT
Brush owl tree decoration, £2.99



LOG LOOKS
Chopped bark tree decs, 99p each



TOP IT OFF
Copper twined star tree topper, £7.99

6ft berry and cone tree, £39.99; Dear Santa canvas, £6.99; standing robin decoration, from £2.99; plush long leg robin, £6.99; benedict leather armchair, £549.99; stag cushion, £9.99; red metal lantern, £3.99; wooden heart lantern, £9.99; barley bristle squirrel, £6.99; Spitalfields wide cabinet, £299.99; red highland check eyelet curtains, from £64.99; Balmoral wool rug, £54.99; Balmoral check natural wallpaper, £7.99 per roll; latte chunky knit throw, £24.99

Golden MOMENTS

Carrie adds a touch of glamour with beautiful gold from **Argos**

CARRIE SAYS

'Styling the tree was incredible, and getting to open box after box of decorations and homewares was wonderful!'



Franklin 6ft Christmas **tree**, £99.99; pack of 79 luxe **baubles**, £9.99; Clara turned **candlesticks**, set of two, £19.99; Angus check **rug** in natural, £44.99; Darcy fabric **chair** in natural, £248.99; Darcy fabric **footstool** in natural, £148.99; knitted **cushion**, £12.99

Hit the shops



TRUE GOLD
Luxury snowflake
baubles pack, £14.99

SERVE IN STYLE
Gold rimmed 12-piece
dinner service, £29.99



XMASTIME
Albertine gold
mantel clock, £24.99

Rustic RETREAT

Danni styles a stunning tree in a homespun way with **Wilko** pieces



DANNI SAYS

'I absolutely loved the day, and felt very fortunate to see what decorations would be in the shops this Christmas before everyone else'

Hit the shops

WOODLAND TOUCH

Wooden tree ornament, £8

GIFT TIME

Hessian Christmas stocking, £3



METALLIC MIX

Mixed silver and gold baubles 50 pack, £5

Wilko Best 6ft Waverley **tree**, £60; Wooden tree **ornament**, £8; wooden star **ornament**, £5; checked dog **door stop**, £8; mini **baubles**, 35 pack, £2.50; silver star **votive**, £2; stag glass **plaque**, £5; gold spot **wine glasses**, set of four, £10; wire star **tree topper**, £5; Wilko Best plain silver **wallpaper**, £15 per roll; Weave charcoal **curtains**, 228 x 228cm, £75; New York **coffee table**, £120; New York **sofa table**, £100; Wentworth **armchair**, £175; dog **cushion**, £7; grey check **cushion**, £7; Jute natural **rug**, £40; **tree decs**: slate heart decoration, diamond, rope bauble, ombre glass bauble, jumbo bell, Wish bauble, copper mesh ball, metal heart, all £1.50 each; mixed **baubles**, 50 pack, £5; snowy **wreath**, £10; chalkboard **wrapping paper**, 8m, £2; faux-fur **throw**, £30; stag cement **candle holder**, £5

Stylists at Home

SIGN UP to become a Stylist at Home

SHARE
YOUR
IDEAS!

The seven lucky ladies who featured in this year's Christmas Tree Challenge are all members of our *Stylists at Home* club, and you could be part of it, too. Love *Style at Home* magazine? Got lots of styling ideas to share with other readers? Dream of having your home featured? Want to help create fantastic features? If you answered yes, then we want to hear from you!

So sign up now and help us to make *Style at Home* the best magazine ever. It's totally free to join and you'll receive our weekly newsletter, bonus offers and other special treats.

All you need to do is email your interest to the below address and we'll get straight back to you.

stylistsathome@timeinc.com



GREAT IDEA

'Scatter Christmas decorations throughout your shelves for a subtle Yuletide display'

SEASON OF GOODWILL

'I decorated this space with lots of festive colour and pretty lights to create a warm welcome – the woodburner is always roaring!'

'I've made a cosy home, **ON A BUDGET'**

Stylist at Home Emily, 40, knew she could create a homely interior in time for the festive season with a few simple updates

HEAD'S UP

'A quirky stag's head with tartan antlers adds character'

MY HOME...



ABOUT ME I'm Emily Austin-Watts, 40, and I live with my son Henry, who's six. I'm a full-time live-in gardener/groundskeeper.

MY HOME A two-bedroom rented coach house in North Yorkshire.

WHEN I MOVED IN The house felt cold and very unloved, but I knew the work would be purely cosmetic.

AND NOW It's a cosy cottage and the perfect family home.

STYLE TIP I always try to buy what I need locally as I like to support my community, but I also love scouring auctions and antiques fairs – you'll be amazed at some of the hidden treasures you can find.

Buy it

Fill your walls with fun animal heads

PAGE 32

We'd been living just outside London since Henry was small, but after separating from my husband, I decided to return to Yorkshire where I grew up,' says Emily. 'My brother Richard and his family live near Thirsk, so to give Henry stability, I wanted to move close to them.'

After months of searching, Richard contacted me to say he'd seen the perfect opportunity in the local paper. A privately-owned home with extensive grounds was looking for a full-time groundskeeper and a two-bedroom coach house was included. It almost sounded too good to be true, but the following week I had my interview.

Having been a fully trained RHS horticulturist and gardener for 15 years, I hoped this would give me the edge over my rivals. To my amazement, later that day I received a call to say the position was mine and I could move in during the summer holidays, which suited us perfectly.

Quick fixes

The cottage required work but it was purely cosmetic, so I knew this could be achieved quickly. The walls needed a fresh coat of paint and the decor needed some cosy home comforts to bring it back to life, but other than that, it was ideal.

My first priority was to give the walls a refresh with some white paint, which instantly made everywhere seem more spacious. I knew if I kept the scheme simple and neutral, then I could add pops of colour with accessories and furnishings.

The entrance hall is quite a generous space and has a useful storage cupboard. The hardwearing tiled flooring is a practical option, making it a great area to leave any muddy boots. For a bit of fun and a welcoming touch, I added the fabric stag's head, along with seasonal foliage from the garden in an old galvanised jug that I discovered in one of the outbuildings.

The living area is the real hub of our house – it's only small but having the >>

COLOUR CODE

In the winter months, I put up red Roman blinds to match my decorations, and then I change them to pale blue blinds in summer'

» woodburning stove makes it very inviting, especially now it's getting colder outside. The Christmas tree came from within the grounds and Henry helped me to arrange a collection of silver birch logs near the fire. I also created a display of candles as I love having them all around the house. Approaching Christmas, I enjoy nothing more than to curl up on the sofa one evening, light the fire and write my cards, while indulging in the odd mince pie!

The Shaker-style kitchen was another simple area to update and I've personalised the space with wooden furnishings from my old house. Even my former garden table was scrubbed and varnished and has now become our dining table, with chairs I sourced from a local auction. At this time of year, I always make sure we have a good supply of clementines and mince pies on the table, with a few added sprigs of holly. It's a beautiful light area and I'm really looking forward to sitting down with my family to enjoy our Christmas meal.

Soothing space

For the master bedroom I wanted a little bit of indulgence, so I decided to create a feature wall behind the bed. I chose a beautiful inky blue wallpaper from the Anthology range at Harlequin, a coat of white paint for the remaining walls and a beige carpet from Cormar. I finished off the look with lots of cushions, as it gives »

DUAL PURPOSE

'A rustic table runner with red details adds a festive twist, but it can be used anytime of the year'



Make it
Create
your own
hessian
table runner
PAGE 36

SECOND CHANCE

'Anything can be given a new lease of life with some TLC - this used to be my garden table'



'THE WOODBURNING STOVE IS ALWAYS ROARING IN WINTER - I CAN'T WAIT TO HAVE ALL THE FAMILY OVER FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER'

Stylists at Home



SHELLEY SAYS
'The French ticking stripe fabric gives a country-style feel to Emily's home and also ties in with the festive red decorations'

FEELING PECKISH?

'I always have nibbles ready for unexpected visitors'



3 style buys

SIMPLY STRIPES

Angus Stripe
Nordic red
square cushion,
£40, Ian Mankin

TOP TREE

Satellite
candle holder,
£25, Habitat

ABOVE BOARD

Acacia paddle
chopping
board, £25,
Marks &
Spencer

GREAT IDEA

'Forage in the garden,
by the roadside and
even ask neighbours for
cuttings of holly and ivy'

Do it

Add interest
to your
scheme with
little displays
PAGE 34

LITTLE EXTRAS

'Cute Santa
figurines add
a festive feel'

AU NATUREL

'A classic Shaker-style
kitchen with wooden
accessories gives the
house a country feel'



STYLE TIP

'Fit a floor-length curtain at old windows to stop cold air from coming in'



STAND OUT

'I wallpapered behind the bed for a luxurious look'



LAYER IT ON

'Knitted throws and comfy pillows add texture and warmth to this scheme'

Hit the shops

Five tips on what to buy to get Emily's style

* FOLLOW THE HERD

Emily bought the Stanley reindeer head from Next a few years ago. Take a look at the great selection of Christmas accessories this year, in a variety of themes and colours.

* **SHELF LIFE** Jali is great for bespoke shelving that fits any space. Emily's

bookshelf is perfect for showing off accessories.

* ROOM FOR ONE MORE

A knitted pouffe is an easy way of adding extra seating for visitors - and of course to put your feet up! Find one at Next, £70.

* **IT'S A WRAP** Cover presents in brown paper and tie with some bright

ribbon for a pop of colour. Find paper and ribbon from a selection at Paperchase.

* **DRESS IT UP** A rustic table runner gives Emily's rescued pine dining table a festive theme. For similar, try the Grain stripe Nordic Peony runner, £39.50m, Ian Mankin.

Stylists at Home



DANNI SAYS
'This home has a very cosy, warm and relaxed feeling with its classic Christmas decor scheme'

PICTURE PERFECT
'This is a great time to display homespun artwork'

'CHILDREN'S ROOMS NEED TO BE BRIGHT AND FUN – I'VE ADDED COLOUR WITH THROWS, ACCESSORIES AND PAINTED FURNITURE'

BLUE HUES

'The bathroom feels relaxing with its calm colour palette'

GROW WITH IT

'A plain backdrop can be dressed up with accessories, but will suit Henry at any age'



» the scheme more texture – the selection at Dunelm is a very reasonable price.

Henry didn't want his room white so instead we decided on Pavilion Gray from Farrow & Ball, which is a soft neutral hue, and another luxurious carpet from Cormar. The pared-back palette is perfect for adding vibrant pops of colour, such as the funky bright red bedside table. On Christmas Eve, Henry will hang his stocking up at the end of his bed in anticipation of a visit from Father Christmas.

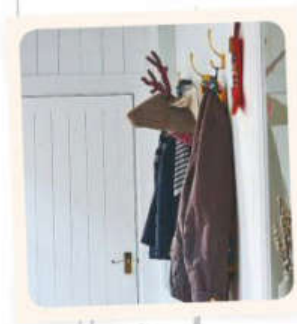
Final touches

The bathroom was the last room to be completed. I was after a fresh feel and because I already had some paintings from my previous house by artist Laura Wallace, I decided to base the colour of the walls around these. I also wanted to incorporate some natural materials, especially wood, so a joiner installed tongue-and-groove cladding around the bath, which I painted in a crisp white.

Overall, I'm extremely proud of what I've achieved, as the coach house has been brought back to life with little expense. I'm so happy to have finished everything just in time to enjoy our first Christmas back home in Yorkshire with my family.'



See inspiring house tour videos and ideas at housetohome.co.uk/styleathome



Buy Emily's style **ANIMAL HEADS**

Follow Emily's lead and go for a quirky look with a modern twist on traditional taxidermy



£27.99

Pick the multi-purpose Tiger wall vase to earn your style stripes, THE OAK ROOM

Get on board with one of the hottest homes trends this season and hang a decorative animal head for a real style statement. Whether you're after something playful for a child's room or a festive wall decoration for Christmas, we've found some great buys to suit both animal lovers and style fanatics alike. Take a look at our round-up of 10 favourite designs from the high street and online, starting from just £16.99.



**CUTE
SCARF
DETAIL**

£16.99

Add a playful touch with this adorable polar bear head, HOMESENSE



£79

Deck your hall with the festive Portobello stag head, MARKS & SPENCER



**£18**

Decorate a rural retreat with the charming Mrs Fox Head, PAPERCHASE

**£24.95**

Try your hand at the Wild & Wolf stag head project kit for a crafty creation, THE MAKERY

**£39**

Get a Scandi-chic look with the Safari Life Wood Bear Trophy Head, CULT FURNITURE

**£18**

Hang this fabric Rudolph wall head to inject some Christmas cheer, NEXT

GREAT FOR A CHILD'S ROOM

**£36**

Choose the faux Triceratops knitting kit to have a go at making your own prehistoric pal, ETSY

**£75**

Update your wall with the shaggy grey Highland cow head, DEBENHAMS

**£55**

Set a safari scene with the decorative giraffe animal head, NOTONTHE HIGHSTREET.COM

STYLE SECRETS

Put your home at the top of the pecking order with our tips

CENTRE OF ATTENTION

Use a wall-mounted animal head to create a striking focal point in your room, as an alternative to wall art. Hang above your sofa or at the top of a staircase to add character and charm.

FEATURE WALL

If you can't decide on just one animal head, why not create a grouping of several to decorate a feature wall? Choose similar designs to pull the look together and go for varying sizes to add interest.

CRAFTY IDEA

Can't find a head to suit your scheme? Check out The Decopatch Place to pick up a plain head to decorate with decoupage paper in a range of colours and patterns.



Like Emily, CREATE A DISPLAY FOR CHRISTMAS

Add a festive feel throughout your home, even in the smallest spaces, with styling ideas that will bring Christmas cheer to every corner

Festive decor usually tends to be centred around the living room, but there are plenty of clever ways to add a little Christmas spirit to every room in your home. View the holiday season as an opportunity to test out your styling skills, setting up pretty vignettes and dressing mantels, ledges and tabletops in creative ways.

Sticking to the same colour theme throughout will give your home a unified feel, and also means that decorations can be easily swapped round to mix things up.

Room to experiment

If space is limited and you can't squeeze in a full-sized tree, or you just don't want the hassle of dealing with dropping needles, you could do away with a tree altogether and focus your decor towards another viewpoint, such as a mantelpiece or a console table dressed with baubles and ornaments. Or, if decorating for Christmas is something you look forward to every year, go to town and sprinkle seasonal touches throughout the house, in addition to the tree. Windows, walls and even ceilings can all be given a festive makeover, and utilising these areas won't eat into precious floor space, either particularly useful if you're going to have a house full of guests over the holiday season.

Have a happy hearth

With its warm, welcoming glow, help your fireplace really become the heart of the home with some savvy styling. Cluster together baubles, candles and presents for a festive scene. If you have a picture rail, hang stockings from here rather than the mantelpiece itself, to keep them out of harm's way. Finish off the look with some lanterns beside the fire and it will be the perfect setting for present opening come Christmas Day. **FIRESIDE GLOW** Stockings, from £5.99 each; candleholder, £4.99; poinsettia, £7.99; baubles, £3.99 for 12; light-up tree, £29.99; glass cloche, from £14.99; stag head, £4.99; lantern with candle, from £14.99 each, all Dobbies



Bag an advent treat

Make an alternative advent calendar the whole family will love, using mini gift bags attached to a wooden peg board. Customise 24 plain paper bags using photos, old greetings cards or craft paper, then add a pretty number label to each. **COUNTING DOWN Peg-it-all pegboard Christmas Edition, £165, Kreis Design.** White gift bags, £2 for five, Hobbycraft



Make a mini marvel

Glass domes or jars can make wonderful homes for winter vignettes, and offer a brilliant tiny styling space, too. Try collecting a few miniature trees and figurines, then stand them inside your jar or dome and sprinkle on a little faux snow to finish. **SANTA BABY Light-up Santa in glass jar, £12, The Contemporary Home**



Take a bough

Tie some twine to the ends of a slim tree branch, then suspend it from two hooks. Hang decorations using more twine, then use it as a quirky place to display cards. **WOODLAND FEEL Tree decoration, £2; decoupage baubles, £1 each; polar bear and snowman decorations, £2.50 each; cards, from a selection, all Tesco**



Get even more decorating ideas – sign up to our free newsletter, housetohome.co.uk/thehomestylist

CHOOSE CHRISTMAS DRESSING IDEAS TO SUIT YOUR INTERIOR STYLE, BE IT RUSTIC, SCANDI OR ECLECTIC, FOR A HARMONIOUS FEEL



Work your windows

String up pretty baubles from lengths of ribbon across window panes to add cheer both inside and out, and decorate with some spray snow in the corners. **IN VIEW Knitted decorations, £12 for three; mistletoe decorations, £4.50 each; Billie decorations, £12 for two; assorted glass baubles, £15 for four, all Cath Kidston**

WORDS JOANNA THORNHILL



Follow your star

Making the most of ceilings is a good way to add a festive feel to your room. To draw the eye upwards hang baubles or festive foliage from an overhead light fitting (ensuring they're not dangerously close to a hot bulb). **HANG IT ALL Santa cookie jar £12; tartan pillar candle, £3; tray, £5; deer mug, £2.50; teacup, £2.50; teabag rest, £1; Bambi mug, £1; hessian star decoration, £2 each, all George Home**



Make Emily's **HESSIAN TABLE RUNNER**

Add a rustic touch to your Christmas table with our DIY burlap runner and matching set of place mats, inspired by Emily's look

Dress your dinner table to impress with our oh-sew-simple tabletop textiles. If you're after a traditional setting for your Christmas dinner, this project is perfect for adding a little homespun charm to your look.

Not only is hessian a great choice for creating a rustic finish, but it will also protect your tabletop from heat and spills. Try mixing up the look and experiment with different-coloured fabric paint. For example, blue and white would work in a coastal setting.

HOW TO

TAKES 3HRS COST £10.99

- * Large natural hessian fabric roll, £8 for 2m, Hobbycraft
- * Tape measure & scissors
- * Iron & sewing machine
- * Paintbrush
- * White cotton thread
- * Craft tape
- * Red fabric paint, £2.99 for 25ml, Hobbycraft



1



2



3

COMPLETE THE SET WITH SOME COORDINATING COASTERS – A GREAT WAY TO USE UP ANY HESSIAN FABRIC YOU MAY HAVE LEFT OVER

1 Measure and cut the roll of hessian fabric into a table runner measuring 120cm in length and two rectangular place mats, each measuring 40cm in length. Fold over the edges of each piece of fabric and press with an iron. Neatly hem the edges with a sewing machine, using white cotton thread.

2 Using craft tape, mask off a narrow stripe (approximately 1cm wide) along the two long sides of the table runner. Stick the craft tape down firmly and make sure that the two pieces are straight and evenly spaced all the way down. Repeat this process with the two place mats.

3 Carefully apply the red fabric paint to the stripes in between the craft tape on each piece of fabric. Be quite liberal when applying the paint so you are left with a strong, crisp line. Leave to dry thoroughly before removing the tape, then iron over the stripes on each piece to seal the paint.

GLACIAL ICE



From trees to gifts and decoration galore, pop down to The Range for your wish list and more. No matter if you have been naughty or nice, the quality is great, with a fabulous price!

1. Silver Glittered Glass Bauble
8cm - Code 463466 - £1.29

2. Blue Frosted Bauble
with White Glitter
8cm - Code 104369 - £1.19

3. Lustre Jewelled Droplet
Code 104379 - £1.29

4. Lace Decorated Bauble
8cm - Code 104359 - £1.19

5. LED Snowy Tree
2m - Code 543331 - £59.99

6. Merry Christmas Jar
Candle Holder
8.5x14 x 18.5cm - Code 940511
£3.99

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Home, Leisure & Garden



SILVER SERVICE

'Our crockery was a wedding present from House of Fraser and always comes out for Christmas dinner'

'My style has



MY HOME...



ABOUT ME I'm Clare Hall, 44, a primary school teacher, and I live with my husband Jez, 45, who works in IT, and our two children, Joseph, 14, and Millie, 11.

MY HOME A three-bedroom mid-terrace house in Darlington, County Durham. It was built in 1870 and we've lived here for 17 years.

WHEN I BOUGHT IT There was woodchip everywhere, with peach walls and green carpets. Luckily, the former owners had replaced the roof and restored the windows.

AND NOW It's a light, neutral space with lots of textures. We also built an extension to create a kitchen-diner and an extra living area.

STYLE TIP If you're sticking to a neutral palette, add interest with faux-fur rugs, shimmering sequined cushions and cosy knitted throws.

GREAT IDEA

'Install a metallic splashback for a chic look in a functional space'



Do it

Get the Shaker look with our top tips
PAGE 46

EVOLVED WITH ME'



Stylist at Home

Clare, 44, chose a subtle, neutral palette that's easy to update as her taste changes

When Jez and I came to view this house on a lovely terraced street in County Durham, we took two steps inside and just knew it was the one for us, even though it needed a lot of work,' says Clare. 'We'd just got married and neither of us had any experience of renovating houses. I was moving from a little new-build starter home and my husband Jez was leaving his parents' place, but we were up for the challenge!

There was woodchip everywhere, which took ages to scrape off, and the colour schemes were a bit dated, but we loved its character and could see the potential. The previous owners had just had a baby and had spent most of their budget on structural work so there was hardly any furniture in the house when we had our viewing, but at least this made it easy to see how the space could work for us.

The work begins

Once we started removing the wallpaper we knew we'd need to re-skim all the walls as big chunks of plaster were falling off. Undeterred, we gradually worked our way around the house starting in the living room. Then when Joseph and Millie came along we tackled their bedrooms.

It was the kitchen that needed the most work though, as the room was quite small for a family and the cupboard doors were hanging off! So, about eight years ago, we decided to build an extension to create a kitchen-diner. The house had already been extended in the 1970s with a ground-floor bathroom off the kitchen, but there was space to extend into the side return, too.

At first the architect suggested a slightly more modest build to create a big square kitchen-diner. But as it wasn't going to cost that much more for double the space, we decided to extend even further out into the rear garden to make a larger L-shaped room with an additional seating area.

We just thought that if you're going to do something, you may as well really go for it!

It was quite disruptive but we made a little makeshift kitchen with a microwave »

QUICK UPDATE

'I decided to paint the reclaimed pine units in Hardwick White by Farrow & Ball to freshen them up'

3 style buys



SAY IT WITH WORDS

Wish light-up sign, £80, Laura Ashley



SOFT TOUCH

Kudo faux-fur throw, £60, Dobbies

GLITZY AFFAIR

Mini mercury bottle lamp, £95, The White Company



Buy it

Get an artificial tree for hassle-free style

PAGE 44

ALL WHITE

'When we stripped and varnished the original floorboards, they started to turn orange, so we painted them white for a Scandi look'



» in the snug next door and luckily we have a shower room upstairs, so we didn't need to traipse through the dusty kitchen when we wanted to use the bathroom.

As we'd already had a new reclaimed wood kitchen installed, we had to protect it while the work was going on. We managed to keep one row of units, but as the other row was attached to the wall that was being removed, it needed a slight redesign. This is why there's a wood worktop on one side and granite on the island.

Looking back, it was definitely the right decision as this space is lovely and light, with French windows opening out to the garden plus two skylights above. We only lost a gravelled area at the side and a patio area at the rear, so it hasn't encroached too much into the garden, but it's made a huge difference to how we live. The kids can either be relaxing and watching TV or doing their homework at the dining table

while I'm cooking the dinner. We find that we now spend most of our time in here.

Finding my style

When it came to the decor, I wanted a neutral backdrop so the rooms would flow well together. I've used Farrow & Ball's Hardwick White quite a lot, as well as Crown's Winter Bloom on the woodwork. I also had another chalky white shade specially mixed to tie in with the wallpaper that used to be in the living room.

Because of the pale palette, it makes it easy to move things around from room to room and to find new buys that I can work in. But if I wanted to introduce an accent colour in the future, it would be so easy to do. Upstairs is more colourful, especially the kids' bedrooms, which are decorated with bright fabrics and accessories.

A friend described our house as having a New England feel, which is because I'm »

SETTLE IN

'There's nothing better than curling up on the sofa with our cosy cushions and throws from Next'

GREAT IDEA

'Dress up a simple scheme by changing cushions and throws each season'



WARM WELCOME

'The B&Q radiator cover is a great surface for seasonal displays - it adds character to the space'



'I LOVE SMOKY GREY ACCENTS - THEY ADD A SOPHISTICATED EDGE TO A NEUTRAL SCHEME AND ARE BANG ON TREND'

HEAT IT UP

'We installed a classic reclaimed fireplace and dressed it up with fairy lights from Aspen & Brown'



Stylists at Home



JAY SAYS

'Everything in Clare's home looks very clean, crisp and beautiful. I'd buy throws and cushions in soft pink shades to add a little warmth to the scheme.'



CHILD'S PLAY

'Millie chose the bright fabrics that we've used in here - it's a cheerful space'



'I'M ALWAYS CHANGING DISPLAYS WITH ITEMS I PICK UP HERE AND THERE - I FIND IT COMPLETELY ALTERS THE FEEL OF THE HOUSE'

RESTFUL RETREAT

'We went for a classic bedstead from Archers and have added touches of blue to the pared-back scheme'



Make it

Give your lights a festive makeover!

PAGE 48

STAND OUT

'The fireplace was painted white to match the bed and I splashed out on some Cole & Son wallpaper'



Stylists at Home



RACHEL SAYS
'If you're going for the same colour palette throughout your home, take inspiration from Clare and use lots of different textures to add plenty of interest to the look.'

GREAT IDEA

'Hang a wall shelf above your bed and create a pretty display'



Hit the shops

Where to go and what to buy to get Clare's style

* **NEUTRAL BASICS** A grey sofa is a timeless classic. Made's Rufus sofa in Rhino Grey is stylish but won't break the bank, from £449.

* **YEAR-ROUND BUYS** Liven up a pale backdrop with metallics, like Clare's silver lanterns. We love the silver Hamptons lanterns, £41.99 per pair, Selections.

* **TOUCHY FEELY** Make your home cosy with accessories you can snuggle up with such as Next's faux-fur cushions, from £18, and throws, from £40.

* **SPECIAL OCCASION** Go for simple white plates with silver edging. They can be dressed up at Christmas but will look good all year round. Try the Jolie range, £7.50 for a dinner plate, Bhs.

* **FEATURE WALL** Add interest with a focal-point wall, like the one opposite Clare's bed. Laura Ashley's Spring Trail duck-egg blue floral wallpaper is so pretty, £39 per roll.



Get clicking and go to housetohome.co.uk/styleathome for more inspiring house tours.

» influenced by shops like The White Company and Made, but I also try and find budget alternatives where possible.

My style has evolved over time and there are many items that I've had since I was a teenager, but I've just upcycled them. We've also got a few antique stools, which are mixed in with pieces from shops like Ikea, House of Fraser and TK Maxx.

I also enjoy decorating the house for Christmas, although some things, such as the fairy lights and tealights in the kitchen, stay up all year round. Christmas is an extra-special day for us as it's Millie's birthday, too. So after lunch, we usually go round to my parents' house, along with my brother and his family, and Millie can have her birthday cake and open her presents.

Proud moment

Looking back, Jez and I feel a real sense of achievement, especially as it was our first home together. Although we hired professionals for the plumbing, electrics

and plastering, we managed to do all the stripping out and decorating ourselves.

I've also developed a passion for painting furniture and upcycling, so when I'm not teaching I'm always thinking about what I can do next in the house. Jez has got into home revamps, too - he made a stool for the kitchen from some old wooden pallets.

Although we originally thought we'd only be here for about five years or so, we've actually stuck around for 17! The more we worked on the place, the more we grew to love it and it became harder to even think about letting it go.

We're also very attached to the area - it's within walking distance of Darlington town centre and there's a quaint village nearby. Although we didn't have children when we bought the property and weren't considering the local amenities, we've landed on our feet as there are good schools just five minutes away. It's such a caring community and we both agree it would be very hard to find anything better.'

BRIGHT IDEA

'Putting a towel rail higher up on the wall makes the most of a tight space'



£129.99

Team the 7ft pre-lit Chameleon tree with colourful decorations, **HOMEBASE**

£69.95

For standout style, try this 6ft artificial black tree, **WHITE STORES**

£79.99

Pick the 6ft North Valley Spruce for a realistic alternative, **WYEVALE GARDEN CENTRES**

£49

Try the 3ft Snow Porch tree with lights if you're short on space, **VERY**

GREAT PRICE

Buy Clare's style **ARTIFICIAL TREES**

Adorn faux firs, like Clare has done, for a hassle-free alternative this Christmas

£35

Bag a bargain and go for this classic 6ft pre-lit tree, **TESCO DIRECT**

Choosing the perfect tree is all part of the fun leading up to the festive season, but if you're after something a little more convenient than a real tree, consider a stylish artificial design that will last for years to come. We've done all the hard work for you and picked out 10 of our favourites, from space-saving shapes to more traditional designs, so there's something to suit every style and budget.



SNOWY
SCENE**£50**

Go for a frosty finish with the 6ft snowy tree, GEORGE HOME

£229

Choose the 5ft Nordmann Fir tree with candle LEDs for lifelike foliage, BALSAM HILL

£50

The 6ft slim tree with berries and pine cones will set a rustic scene, WILKO

£299.99

Invest in the Cranmere 2.2m pre-lit tree for a luxurious finish, DOBBIES

NATURAL
BEAUTY**£150**

Be traditional with this 6ft flocked tree, MARKS & SPENCER

STYLING TIPS

Read our helpful advice before choosing your tree

MEASURE UP

Once you've decided where you want your tree to stand, take measurements to ensure it's the right size. Don't forget to take the stand into account and avoid choosing a tree that's too wide, as the branches may get squashed against furniture.

LIGHT THE WAY

To avoid the struggle of untangling fairy lights, why not go for a pre-lit artificial tree instead? Not only is this a great time-saving option, but it also means your lights will be evenly spaced with no visible wires on show.

STYLE SAVVY

Some artificial trees come with a flocked finish to make the branches appear snow covered or glittery. Others include decorative elements, such as pine cones or berries, which can help save time when decorating and provides a more realistic look.

Like Clare, try a SHAKER KITCHEN



Take a look at these tips to get this simple yet striking look

Shaker style stems from the 18th-century US religious movement of the same name – they believed in simplicity and function without embellishment or decorative features, and their homes reflected this. Today, there's more variety of colour and finishing touches, but stick to the basics and the look is easy to achieve.

Wood is the dominant material in Shaker kitchens. Choose a simple design with square doors with an inset panel and, if painted, go for a matt finish. Any furniture should follow these lines, too – spindle-back wooden chairs and a basic square or round table suit the style.

Flooring is traditionally wooden boards but any plain hard floor works, and large slab tiles go beautifully in this scheme.

1 Simple approach

Give your kitchen the Shaker look in no time by painting cabinetry in a rich cream paint, fitting plain floating shelves and introducing freestanding furniture.

2 Standout storage
Need extra space? A freestanding unit in a contrasting colour will make a statement, and adding traditional cup handles will give it instant Shaker style.



GREY MATTER
Florence three-door sideboard, £275, The Cotswold Company

3 Pared-back palette

For the ultimate in simplicity, keep everything in as close a colour to the cabinets as you can – light fittings, window treatments, furniture and tiles in similar shades will blend the look together.

4 Take a seat

If your kitchen has space for a table and chairs, opt for spindle-back seats – keep them plain for an authentic look, or add a cushion for a modern feel.



CHAIR STYLE
Cotswold Ivory round table and chairs, £399.99, Dunelm

ALL WHITE NOW
Metod/Bodbyn/Maximera kitchen, from £2,950, Ikea



SOFTLY, SOFTLY

Cupboards and wall painted in Delicate Cream emulsion, from £18.47 per 2.5ltr, Crown Paints



FOR A REALLY AUTHENTIC LOOK, HUNT THROUGH JUNK SHOPS FOR ANTIQUE CAKE TRAYS AND STONEWARE FLOUR JARS TO DISPLAY FOODSTUFFS

5 Plain pieces

Simple style extends to accessories, too. Choose subtle ceramics and storage that's made with natural materials such as wood and cork. This is also a good way to add a hint of colour.



GO-TO POTS
Bussulot containers, £26.77 each, Enrico Zanolla at Clippings

6 Bowled over

A ceramic Belfast sink completes the look of a Shaker kitchen and, although they can be expensive, they don't have to break the bank and will keep their good looks for years to come.

7 On the tiles
Rugged stone floors bring a stylish and practical element to kitchens. Go as dark or light as you like – the natural appearance will work whatever shade the tiles are.



FLOOR SHOW
Callan brick floor tiles, £55.71 per sq m, Topps Tiles



CHOP CHOP
Boards with leather tie in raw oak, from £12.99 each, T&G Woodware

8 Rustic boards
Functionality is king in a Shaker kitchen so choose chunky chopping boards and display in stacks or hang from pegs above the worktop.



CALM TONES
Austin duck egg and cream kitchen, from £4,000, Leekes

9 Wooden surface
There's nothing like a wooden worktop for the feel that this style demands. For a seamless look, fit a flush sink and have drainage grooves cut into the wood.

10 Make it yours
Don't feel that you can't lean towards your favourite colours or materials – just steer clear of curves or embellishment and it will still have that Shaker feel.



Get even more decorating ideas – sign up to our free newsletter, housetohome.co.uk/thehomestylist



Make Clare's TWINKLING FAIRY LIGHTS

Love Clare's style? We've made our very own fairy light covers using decorative papers to recreate her wintry look

Give your fairy lights a festive makeover by trying your hand at these simple DIY covers, made from basic paper cups.

Whether you decide to drape them across a mantelpiece or hang them on your bed frame, these little lampshades will add a sense of fun to your space in next to no time. Head to cushienumber.co.uk to download and print out the template to get started.

HOW TO

TAKES 1HR COST £5.49

- * Paper cup wrapper template
- * Plain paper
- * Scissors
- * 2 sheets patterned paper, £1 per sheet, Hobbycraft
- * Pencil & glue stick
- * 10 paper cups, £1.50 for 12, Sainsbury's
- * Craft knife
- * 10 LED battery-operated white fairy lights, £1.99, Lights4Fun.co.uk

**LESS
THAN
£6!**

THIS PROJECT CAN BE ADAPTED TO SUIT ANY CHRISTMAS LOOK – MIX AND MATCH DIFFERENT PAPERS TO SUIT YOUR SCHEME

1 Print out the cup wrapper template onto paper and carefully cut out. Roll out a sheet of the patterned paper and place the template on top. Draw around the template and cut out. Repeat to make five wrappers, then do the same to make another five from the second sheet of paper.

2 Apply a small amount of glue to the back of each wrapper and carefully stick around each paper cup, beneath the lip, smoothing out any air bubbles as you go. Repeat until each cup is covered with the patterned paper. Neatly trim away any overhanging paper, if necessary.

3 Place each cup upside down on a flat surface and draw a small cross in the middle of the base. Carefully cut through this cross using a craft knife and gently push the lights into each hole. Alternate the cups so you have different papers next to each other when assembled into a row.



1



2



3

PROJECT SUZIE ATTAWAY STYLING CASSIE PRYCE PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID GILES
OWL CANVAS: £5; SILVER STAG: £8; TEALIGHT HOLDER: £5; SNOW GLOBE: £7; ALL
WILKO; CHRISTMAS CARD: £6 FOR 5; BHS; TINSSEL: £3.50; THE CONTEMPORARY HOME

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[^]Most models.

'This is the BEST MOVE WE'VE MADE'

Stylist at Home Hayley, 31, bought a brand-new house and turned it into a fabulously stylish family home

COSY SCENE

'There's nothing I love more than curling up on the sofa in the living room over Christmas'

MY HOME...



ABOUT ME I'm Hayley Blair, 31, and I'm a sales manager. I live with my husband Simon, 40, a tower crane electrician, our son Jake, five, and Woody the dog.

MY HOME A four-bedroom new-build near Middlesbrough, which we bought in 2014.

WHEN WE BOUGHT IT The houses were only just starting to be built and we were among the first owners to move in. We fell in love with it after seeing one of the three amazing showhomes. Luckily, we were able to choose the plot we wanted.

AND NOW It's a stylish, modern family home. I chose some of the wallpapers that were featured in one of the showhomes as they looked great and created a real wow factor when you walked in the door.

STYLE TIP Pick a colour theme and try to continue it throughout the entire house, adding an accent colour here and there. It helps link the spaces seamlessly together.

ALL LIT UP

'We always decorate the tree with our favourite baubles from Next and The Contemporary Home'





GREAT IDEA

'Choose furniture from the same range for a co-ordinated look'

Looking to relocate for my husband's work was a big decision for us all as a family,' says Hayley. 'I was born and raised in Cumbria, and when Simon was asked by his company to move to Middlesbrough, on the other side of the country, I was very unsure about leaving all our family and friends. It was a difficult choice to make.

I spoke to my company, and when they said that they'd be able to find a position for me in their Newcastle office, it was a huge relief and it made the idea of moving seem much easier. So now all that was left to do was find the perfect home.

New beginnings

Simon and I went over to Middlesbrough one weekend so we could visit some estate agents in the local area. We had been sent the details of a couple of houses we liked and went to view these. However, the agents also suggested that we might want

to take a look at a new development by Story Homes, which was only just being built. I was quite interested in this, and so we went over to the sales office to take a look at their three showhomes.

As soon as we walked in I remember being overwhelmed by the sheer size of them, and loved the stylish interiors. Each property had a utility room and the master bedrooms had their own en-suite shower rooms – I thought they were fabulous.

Making decisions

We went back to the sales office and mulled it for over an hour before we both agreed that the four-bedroom Wellington, which apparently is one of the most popular Story Homes, was the one for us. We also talked about our preferred plot position on the site and completion dates.

The building work had only just begun so we were lucky enough to have first choice of where we'd like to be. It was quite a lot to think about, so we let the »



CHRISTMAS CHEER

'I added a pretty gingham ribbon to a wreath from HomeSense'

NEAT SCHEME

'We chose the grey kitchen before we moved into the house as we thought it would be a good fit for a modern home'

GREAT IDEA

'Take wall cupboards right up to the ceiling to make the most of the space'

Do it
Style your
Christmas
table with flair
and finesse
PAGE 58



ON SHOW

'I like using my vintage glassware to create seasonal flower displays'

» agents know that we'd consider it overnight. But by the time we'd driven back to Cumbria that evening, we'd already decided on the ideal spot for us.

We rang the sales office the following day and placed our deposit there and then, in order to secure the plot. The house would be ready in only eight weeks, which was perfect timing for us both starting our new jobs. Plus, we'd already found a buyer for our current home, so the whole thing worked out really well.

Finding inspiration

During our tour of the showhome, I'd taken some pictures of the rooms, furnishings and accessories that I liked. Later on, I asked if the sales team could put me in touch with the interior designer. I emailed them and they were very helpful, letting me know where to buy all the various fabrics and wallpapers from. I got to work immediately and started sourcing everything we needed before the move,

and had a really good sort-out at home to get rid of anything we no longer wanted.

The move was so stress-free it was unreal! This is the first time I've ever moved into a brand-new home and it was really lovely opening the door and being able to just unpack all your boxes straight away into the kitchen cupboards, and hang your clothes in the spacious wardrobes, all in a wonderfully clean house, complete with newly fitted carpets.

Quick work

Incredibly, by the end of that first day we were almost sorted. As Christmas was only a week away, I'd been sure to buy all my presents and gifts in plenty of time. We just had to be careful to make sure they were well hidden away from our son, Jake.

We unpacked all the Christmas boxes the following day rather than putting them straight into the loft and, while Jake and I were busy doing this, Simon went off to have a look for a real tree. Jake »

Stylists at Home



DANNI SAYS
'Hayley's home has such a lovely rich jewel colour, and her style shows how to work the look for a warm, festive feel for Christmas. I love it!'



WHAT A CRACKER

'Sarah Moore vintage crackers bring colour to the festive table'

'PUTTING UP SHELVES AND PICTURES REALLY MAKES A BRAND-NEW HOUSE FEEL MORE LIKE A HOME'

BRIGHT SCENE

'The fuchsia upholstered chairs from Barker and Stonehouse add a funky touch'



WASH AND GO

'The sleek units in the utility room match those in the kitchen. I added the picture shelf'

3 style buys

FLOOR SHOW

Ultimate luxury shaggy rug, from £99, Kaleidoscope



BRIGHT BUY
Merlin cushion, £17, Very

CLEAR ADDITION

Tree-etched vase, £10, Wilko



BOY'S OWN

'I chose the Christmas bunting and deer's head, both from Next, for Jake's room'



SAVE THE DATE

'The advent house from The Contemporary Home, is filled with treats'

Buy it

Check out the best advent calendars

PAGE 56



Stylists at Home



SHELLEY SAYS

'The picture shelf in the spare bedroom helps to break up the vibrant wallpaper and give the room a focal point for pictures.'

'WE'VE USED DIFFERENT SHADES OF PINK AS AN ACCENT COLOUR THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE FOR A COHESIVE LOOK'



Make it

Use fabric scraps to create a festive wreath

PAGE 60

Hit the shops

Five tips on what to buy to get Hayley's style

* **CHOOSE CLASSICS** Go for traditional furniture designs. Next is one of Hayley's favourite shops, and her sofas, dining table, bed and living room furniture are from there. Try the Velvet French Grey Westcott bedstead, £575, Next.

* **ADD PATTERN** Create interest with feature walls. Try Harlequin for a bold range of wallpapers and fabrics, along with Scion - we love its Mr Fox wallpaper for a child's bedroom, £36 per roll, John Lewis.

* **BE BRIGHT** If you don't want to add bold colours on the walls, start with accessories. Hayley buys her bedlinen from Dunelm, from £10.99, and mixes and matches crockery from Joules, from £8.95.

* **POPS OF PINK** Scatter hot pink accessories throughout your home. From cushions to chairs and towels, it will link each space together. We love the Linea towels from House of Fraser, from £3 each.

* **SEASONAL DISPLAYS** Arrange Christmas blooms in vintage glass jars for a festive touch. The faux-flower decorations from Bloom make this super simple.

PRETTY IN PINK

'Our spare bedroom is decorated in girly shades for when our niece comes to stay. The striped wallpaper is by Scion'



SLEEP TIGHT

'I created a feature wall using Athyrium wallpaper by Scion. The bedding came from Sainsbury's'

STYLE TIP

'Decorating one wall in a bold design is a great way to add impact in a neutral room'

» absolutely loved decorating the tree with all our favourite old baubles and ornaments. When it was done, we placed all the wrapped presents underneath, being careful that none from 'Santa' had got into the pile by mistake! I've never had such a relaxed run-up to Christmas.

The big day

On Christmas Eve, Jake was so excited about the arrival of Santa, he hung a stocking at the end of his bed and another one in the living room underneath the tree. The following morning, we were woken up at 6am to shrieks of delight as he'd discovered his stockings packed with small gifts. We opened our presents early that morning, and then my mum and dad arrived armed with even more presents for Jake. We'd invited some other family members and, by lunchtime, we had 15 people in our new house.

Simon and I shared the cooking, and even though I'm a vegetarian, this doesn't

stop us cooking a turkey with all the trimmings on Christmas Day. I just make sure I prepare as many vegetables as possible and we whip up a veggie gravy.

Instant attraction

I must say that the sleek kitchen-diner immediately became my favourite room in the whole house. It's just so bright and light with the large French windows leading out to the garden. Jake loves playing outside and when his friends come over, I don't have to worry about them as I know they're safely fenced in.

I absolutely love living in this house, and moving into a new-build is by far the best decision we've ever made.

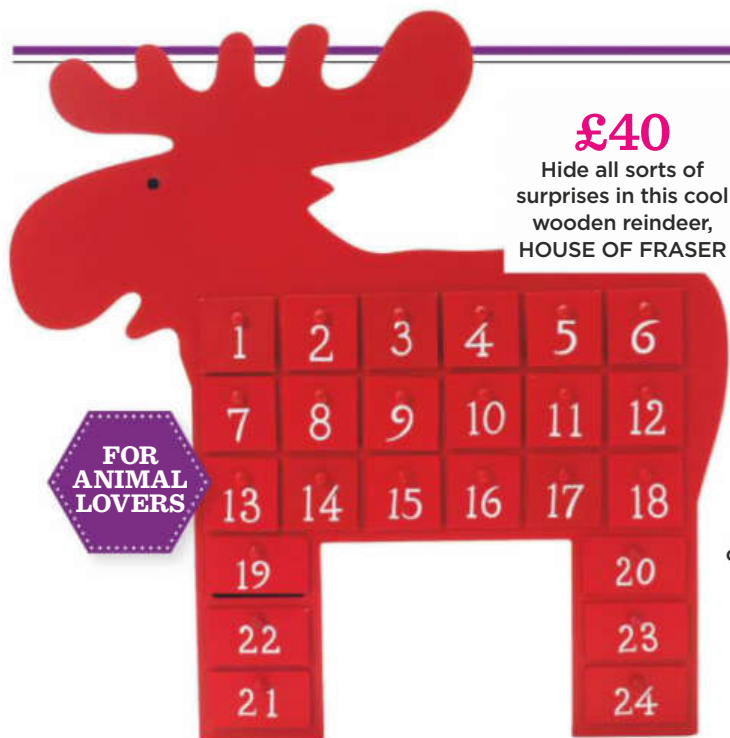


Treat yourself or a friend by subscribing to *Style at Home* at magazinesdirect.com/CLP5 from only £14.99!

SPLASH OF COLOUR

'Plain grey tiles are livened up with fuchsia accessories'





£40

Hide all sorts of surprises in this cool wooden reindeer, HOUSE OF FRASER



£8

Watch Christmas Day draw closer with this advent chalkboard and pen, TALKING TABLES

Buy Hayley's style ADVENT CALENDARS



Think outside the box in your countdown to Christmas with one of these fun designs

Start the festivities on 1st December with a new advent calendar. Whether it's for the little ones or the big kids at heart, we've scoured the high street and online to find 10 of our favourites, starting from just £7.99!



£160

Reuse this stylish wooden display box year after year, OUT THERE INTERIORS



£22

Hang an advent tree by your bed and fill it with festive goodies, DEBENHAMS





£7.99

Add rustic charm by hanging a jute calendar, OXFAM



£39.50

The Advent Calendar of Tea is the perfect pre-Christmas gift for any cuppa fan, NOTONTHEHIGH STREET.COM



£25

For a nostalgic piece, choose the striking Wooden Nutcracker Soldier calendar, THE CONTEMPORARY HOME



£60

Dress your mantelpiece with the classic tree advent calendar, COX & COX

CLEVER MINIMAL DESIGN



£10

Decorate your own wooden advent truck for a personalised keepsake, HOBBYCRAFT



£39.99

Count down with a snowy Starry Night advent house, LAKELAND

STYLE SECRETS

Customise your calendar with our budget-savvy ideas

FUN FILLERS

Tailor ideas to suit each family member – for example, fill a baking enthusiast's calendar with gifts such as cookie cutters, cake cases or even some baking ingredients. And how about writing thoughtful personal pledges that won't cost a penny until after Christmas? 'You're going on a spa day in January!' is bound to go down well with a leisure lover.

PENNY SAVERS

A brilliant way to help keep your advent calendars cheap and cheerful

is to fill them with homemade goodies. Prepare a batch of truffles and seal them in airtight bags ready to pop into your advent boxes. Or have a go at making DIY bath salts that you can present in little bottles.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

Get creative and make your own advent calendars using matchboxes or little paper bags. Add some fun embellishments such as pompoms, twine and tags to make a beautiful keepsake that you can reuse each Christmas for years to come.



Copy Hayley's FESTIVE SPREAD

You don't have to spend much to wow your guests with show-stopping table settings

Whether you like all-out glitz and glamour or simple, pared-back elegance, we've scoured the high street to bring you this season's most inspiring new table-setting ideas. Scandinavian style is a huge trend, and the good news is there's a Scandi setting to suit everyone, from delicate, folk-style Swedish lace patterns to modern Nordic geometric

prints. Want a more theatrical Christmas dinner? Why not try an Art Deco theme with jet black and burnished bronze, or a setting with a powerful accent colour such as a bold blue? Whatever your taste, there's no need to blow your budget – the following festive looks can all be achieved without splashing too much cash. All you need is a bit of imagination – and perhaps some helpful 'elves' to lay the cutlery...

Choose natural, pale shades for a seasonal, Scandi feel



Keep it simple

Embrace rustic, natural textures and pared-back white and silver accessories for a relaxed, laid-back table setting that oozes understated style.

Simplicity dinnerware, from £2.49; white glitter log tree ornaments, from £14.99 each, both Homebase

Add an accent

Want a stylish and elegant look? Keep your table linen, dinner set, cutlery and accessories classic in white and silver, then choose a strong colour such as a rich, deep blue for accent details like ribbons and baubles.

Lace 12-piece dinner set, £35; Lustre flute, £10 for two; Lustre glass, £7 for two; Pewter Star dish, £3; Marseille metal chair, £49 each, all Tesco Direct



Stylists at Home



CARRIE SAYS

'Try making your own namecards. Simply slot guests names into the top of a pine cone, tie a parcel tag on to a trio of baubles or create mini chalkboards with small frames.'

Mix dark tones with furry textiles, and add sparkling glassware for a dramatic effect



Go geometric

Love contemporary style? For a sophisticated setting on a budget, drape your table with an on-trend geometric-print tablecloth, then place a pine tree branch in a glitzy vase for a stylish centrepiece.

White and gold star tablecloth, £14.99; large gold vase, £12.99; tall gold candle holder, £7.99; small gold candle holder, £6.99; tableware, from £4.99 for a mug, all H&M

Choose natural glamour

Create a stunning display above your dining table by suspending eucalyptus branches using strong, transparent fishing wire tied to small, subtle hooks screwed into your ceiling joists, then hang your favourite decorations from the branch using lengths of ribbon.

Scissors table, £599; decorations, from £2.50 each; candelabra, £100, all Bhs

Pick purple

If you love traditional festive colours, you can't beat a purple and gold setting for ultimate opulence. Mix delicately detailed gold and cream table linens with vibrant purple glasses and metallic decorations. **White and gold damask runner, £6.99; gold square charger plate, £1.49; napkin ring, £1.99, all Dunelm**



Think pink

'Glam' doesn't have to be too girly mix pale, pastel pink accessories with crisp white and understated greys for a grown-up but oh-so-pretty table. Finish off the look by tying pink ribbon around your napkins for an inexpensive result.

Decorations, £1; silver charger plate, £1; large heart decoration, £1; ribbon, £1; mini glass hearts, £1 for nine, all Poundland



For more of our best Christmas decorating ideas, go to pinterest.com/styleathomemag today!



Make Hayley's FABRIC SCRAPS FESTIVE WREATH

Follow Hayley's lead and decorate your home with a handmade wreath this Christmas using pretty patterned fabrics

Add homespun charm to your festive styling with this no-sew project that can be completed in just one hour. It's a great way to use up leftover scraps of fabric from your previous projects, or why not try the same technique using strips of ribbon instead?

HOW TO

TAKES 1 HR COST £10

- * Polystyrene 30cm wreath base, £3, Hobbycraft
- * Bright Christmas fat quarters, £7 per pack, Hobbycraft
- * Fabric scissors
- * Hot-glue gun
- * Red and white twine
- * Tape measure
- * Iron

1 Begin by ironing the fat quarters to remove any creases. With the help of a tape measure, cut the fabric into 5 x 35cm strips and place to one side. You will need approximately 40 strips in total to cover the wreath. Play around with the order of patterns and colours until you're happy with the design that you want on your wreath.

2 Take one strip of fabric and wrap it around the wreath, tying into a bow at the front. Repeat with the remaining strips until all the polystyrene is covered, slightly adjusting the position of each bow so they are staggered. Use fabric scissors to snip away any frayed edges at the end of the bows and cut a length of twine to hang the wreath from. Use a hot-glue gun to secure this to the back of the wreath.

**COSTS
JUST
£10**

**NATURAL
LOOK**
Chestnut Panel
wallpaper,
£26.99 per roll,
WallpaperDirect



**THIS PROJECT CAN WORK FOR ANY SEASON –
USE PASTEL FABRICS FOR A SPRING WREATH
OR NATURAL TONES FOR AUTUMN**

Cook **INSIDE** *at Home*

FESTIVE RECIPES
MADE EASY

BE A HERO IN THE KITCHEN WITH OUR OH-SO-TASTY RECIPES

20+
CHRISTMAS
RECIPES

RECIPES & PHOTOGRAPHS TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM, WOMAN'S OWN, WOMAN



p62 ULTIMATE
XMAS DINNER



p64 SHOW-STOPPING
DESSERTS

p66
BOXING DAY

Make a delicious buffet
with our party recipes

Host a deliciously FESTIVE FEAST

Treat the family to a Christmas they'll never forget
with these fab traditional recipes

CLASSIC
FAMILY
CHOICE



ROAST TURKEY WITH PEAR & SAUSAGE STUFFING

TAKES 3HRS 45MINS PLUS STANDING TIME SERVES 6

★ 3.5-4kg turkey ★ 50g butter ★ 150ml white wine ★ Juice ½ lemon
★ 12 chipolata sausages ★ fresh herbs. **FOR THE STUFFING** 50g butter
★ 2 onions, chopped
★ 3 sausages ★ 2 garlic cloves, crushed ★ 2 pears, roughly chopped
★ 200ml chicken stock
★ 200g breadcrumbs
★ 1tbsp chopped fresh sage ★ 50g pancetta, cubed

- 1 Preheat oven to 180°C/Gas 4. To make the stuffing, melt the butter in a pan and cook onions for 10 mins. Remove sausage skins and chop the meat. Add to pan along with the garlic and pears and cook for 3 mins. Pour in the stock, bring to boil and simmer for 2 mins. Stir in the breadcrumbs, sage and season.
- 2 Spoon a third of the stuffing into the turkey neck flap and secure skin with a skewer. Place rest in a greased baking dish and scatter the pancetta on top.
- 3 Rub the softened butter over the turkey and season well.

Place turkey in a roasting tin breast-side down. Add the wine and 150ml water and squeeze the lemon juice over. Roast for 2 hrs, basting occasionally.

4 Turn the turkey breast-side up and cook for 30 mins or until juices run clear when a skewer is inserted. Remove turkey from oven and let it stand for 45 mins, wrapped in foil. Save the juices to make gravy.

5 Meanwhile, put the chipolatas in a baking tray and cook in the oven, along with the extra stuffing dish, for 30 mins. Serve with fresh herbs.



ROAST POTATOES

TAKES 55MINS SERVES 6

Peel and quarter **2kg potatoes** and bring to the boil in a pan of water. Simmer for 10 mins and drain. Heat **100ml rapeseed oil** in a tin, add the potatoes and roast at 200°C/Gas 6 for 30 mins. Add **2 sprigs rosemary** and **6 cloves garlic**. Cook for 15 mins.

RED CABBAGE

TAKES 30MINS SERVES 6

Cook **1 sliced onion** in **50g melted butter** for 5 mins. Add **1 apple** and **1 red cabbage**, sliced, **2tbsp sugar**, large pinch of mixed spice and **100ml pomegranate juice**. Cook for 20 mins with lid on. Top with **pomegranate seeds** to serve.

EASY
SIDE
DISHES



MAKE A SIMPLE RED ONION AND GOAT'S CHEESE TART FOR A DELICIOUS VEGGIE OPTION. VISIT CUSHIENUMBER.CO.UK FOR OUR RECIPE



BRUSSELS SPROUTS & BALSAMIC ONIONS

TAKES 50MINS SERVES 6

Cook **1kg Brussels sprouts** in boiling water for 5 mins, drain. Melt **25g butter** in a pan, add **2 sliced red onions** and cook for 5 mins. Add **2tbsp balsamic vinegar** and cook to caramelise for 5 mins. Add the sprouts, cook for 5 mins.

ROASTED VEGGIES

TAKES 50MINS SERVES 6

Preheat oven to 200°C/Gas 6. Put **800g peeled, quartered carrots** and **2tbsp oil** in a roasting tin and roast for 15 mins. Add **800g peeled and quartered parsnips** and cook for 25 mins. Sprinkle over **20g sugar** and **pinch of salt** and cook for 5 mins until cooked through.

Add these...



LIDL
Deluxe cranberry
sauce, 99p (200g)



SAINSBURY'S
Taste the Difference buttered
bread sauce, £2 (300g)



WAITROSE
Poultry gravy,
£2.69 (500g)

CHRISTMAS PUD

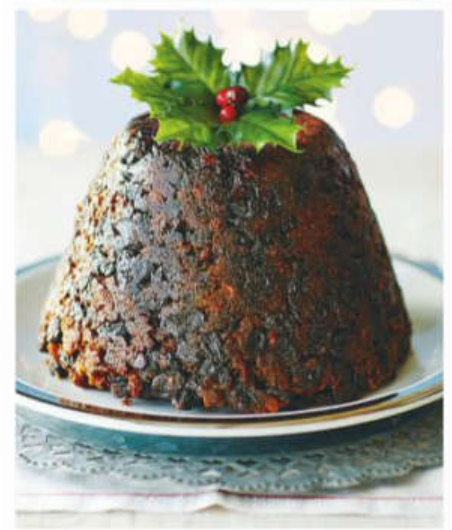
**TAKES 5HRS + SOAKING
SERVES 6-8**

* **100g** each of dried apricots, dried cranberries, and prunes, chopped * **200g** raisins, chopped * **75g** blanched almonds, chopped * **50g**, candied peel, chopped * **50g** candied ginger, chopped * **1** apple, grated * **Zest** 1 lemon * **Zest** and juice 1 orange * **100ml** brandy * **75g** butter * **75g** light muscovado sugar * **1** large egg, beaten * **125g** self-raising flour * **1tsp** each mixed spice, ground nutmeg, ground cinnamon

1 Mix the ingredients up to and including the brandy in a bowl. Cover and soak overnight.

2 Beat butter and sugar together until fluffy. Slowly beat in egg then fold in the fruit and remaining ingredients. Butter a 1.2ltr pudding bowl and fill with mixture. Cover top with circle of greaseproof paper then secure a sheet of buttered foil to basin rim with string, allowing room to rise.

3 Put an upturned saucer in a pan. Place the pud on top and fill up halfway with water. Cover and simmer for 4 hrs, topping up the water when needed. Leave to cool. Chill in fridge up to two weeks ahead. To reheat, microwave for 5 mins.



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Indulge with something



ADD
EDIBLE
CHOCs

GOLD SACHERTORTE

TAKES 1HR 35MINS SERVES 16

* 400g dark chocolate
* 200g butter * 225g light muscovado sugar * 6 eggs, lightly beaten * 50g ground almonds * 125g self-raising flour * 4tbsp cocoa * 12 liqueur chocolates * 300ml double cream * 3tbsp caster sugar * Edible gold glitter stars * Gold chocolates to decorate

1 Preheat oven to 190°C/ Gas 5. Melt 200g of the chocolate in a bowl over a pan of simmering water (don't let the water touch the bowl). Cream butter and muscovado sugar

together until fluffy. Slowly beat in the eggs. Fold in the almonds, flour and cocoa. Stir in the melted chocolate.

2 Grease and line a 21cm springform tin. Put in half the mixture, arrange the chocolates then spoon over remaining mixture. Bake for 30 mins, cover with foil and bake for 15 mins more. Cool in the tin for 30 mins, turn out and cool on a rack.

3 Put the cream and sugar in a pan and warm through. Add remaining chocolate, turn off heat and stir. Cool for 10 mins. Evenly spread ganache on cake. Top with stars and chocolates.



SUGAR PLUM GLITTER JELLIES

TAKES 15MINS SERVES 12

* 200ml sugar plum liqueur * pinch cinnamon * 350g jar stem ginger, drained, reserving the syrup * 150g golden caster sugar * juice 1 orange * 2 sachets powdered gelatine * 1 litre pomegranate and apple juice * edible glitter * 200g Greek yoghurt * edible gold stardust

1 Put the liqueur, cinnamon, stem ginger syrup, sugar and orange juice in a pan and warm through. Take off heat and stir in gelatine until dissolved. Stir in fruit juice and edible glitter.

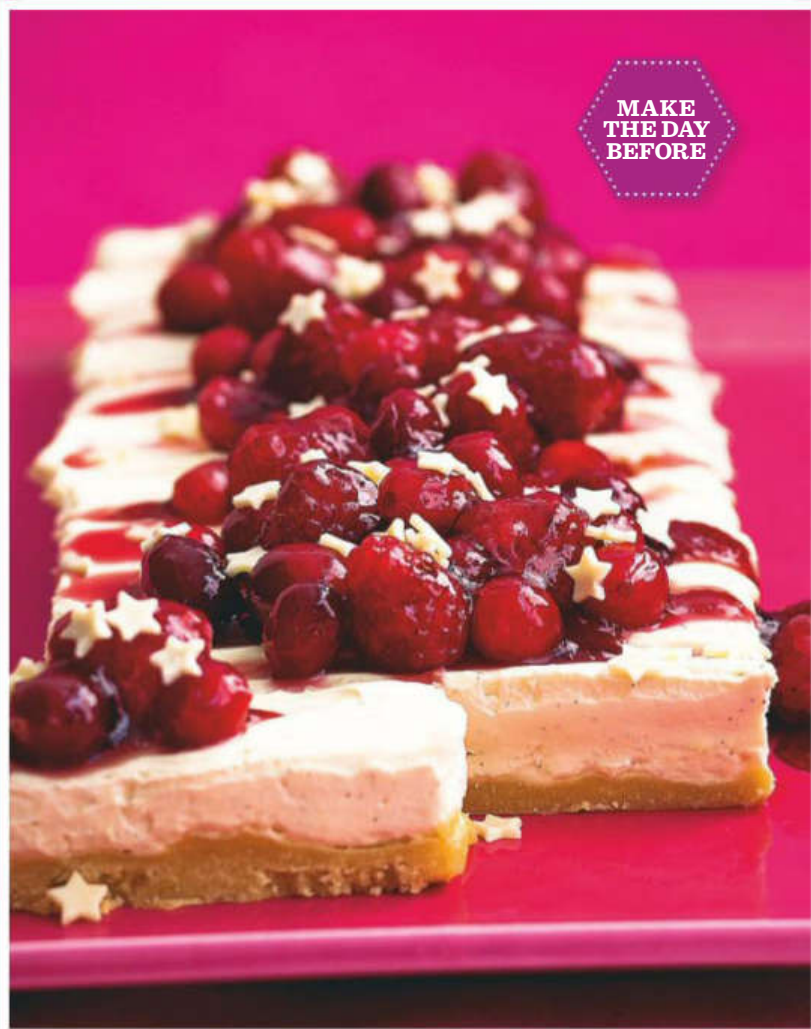
2 Chop up the stem ginger and divide between 12 glasses, reserving some for decoration. Pour over the glitter juice and chill for several hours.

3 Top with yoghurt, stem ginger and gold stardust.

**DON'T HAVE A SWEET TOOTH? TRY THE
CHEESE LOVERS SELECTION, £25
(925G), MARKS & SPENCER**

SPECIAL

Get stuck into a sweet dessert for the ultimate Christmas indulgence



WHITE CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE

TAKES 35MINS SERVES 16

★ 250g shortbread biscuits ★ 100g butter, melted ★ 100ml double cream ★ 200g white chocolate, chopped ★ 600g cream cheese ★ 2tsp vanilla extract ★ 200g cranberries ★ 50g caster sugar ★ 2tbsp crème de cassis ★ 6tbsp redcurrant jelly ★ 100g raspberries ★ 2tbsp white chocolate stars

1 Blitz the biscuits into crumbs in a food processor. Mix with melted butter. Press into the base of a lined 35cm x 12cm loose-based tin and put in the fridge to chill.

2 Put a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water, pour in the cream, heat through then add the chocolate to melt.

3 Whisk the cream cheese and vanilla together, pour in the chocolate and cream, mix and pour over the biscuit base. Chill for at least 2 hrs.

4 Remove cheesecake from tin. Heat the cranberries, sugar and crème de cassis in a pan for few mins. Add redcurrant jelly and warm through until melted. Arrange raspberries on top, drizzle over the cranberries and sauce. Top with the white chocolate stars.



CHRISTMAS PUDDING ICE CREAM

TAKES 10MINS PLUS FREEZING SERVES 8

Lightly whip 300ml double cream and fold in 500ml vanilla custard and 6tbsp Irish cream liqueur. Crumble in 500g

cooked Christmas pudding. Freeze, stirring every 30 mins. When set, scoop into balls and serve with clotted cream.

Or try these...



ASDA

Extra Special Black Forest Alaskan bombe, £5 (500g)



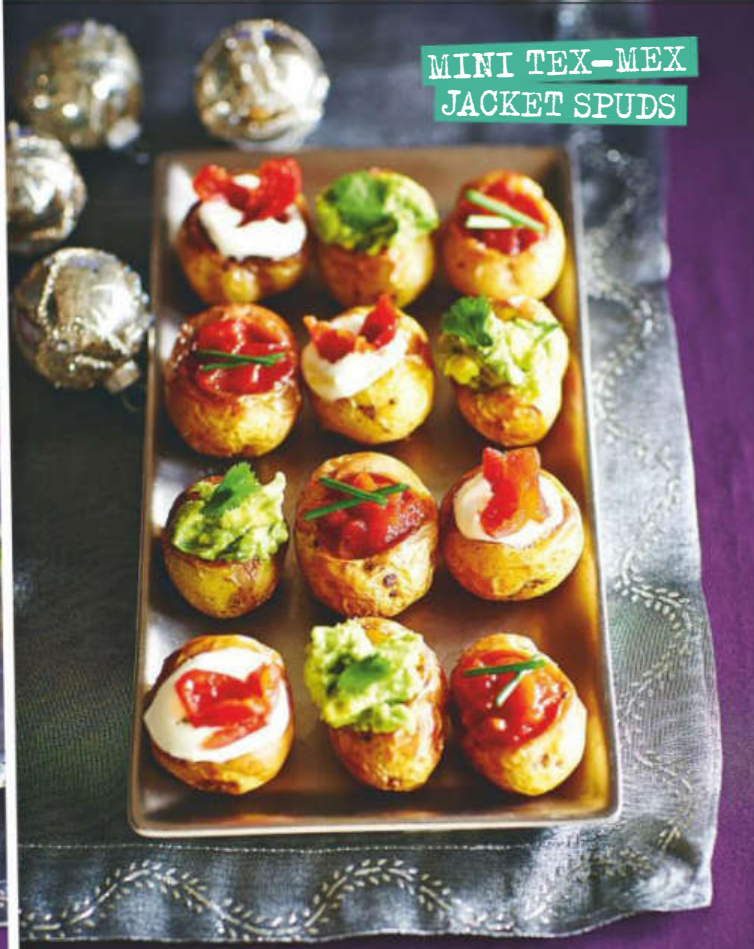
MORRISONS

M Signature Raspberry and Mascarpone dome, £3.51 (650g)

GLAZED
CIDER GAMMON



MINI TEX-MEX
JACKET SPUDS



VIBRANT
TURKEY SALAD



FILO SALMON
PARCEL

Serve up a FANCY BUFFET

Knock up a super spread with our recipes for the perfect celebration

GLAZED GAMMON

TAKES 2HRS + SOAKING SERVES 16

* 2.5kg smoked boneless gammon * 1 onion, sliced * 1 carrot * 1tsp peppercorns * 1 bay leaf * Few sprigs thyme * 500ml cider * Zest and juice ½ orange, plus ½ orange, sliced * Zest and juice ½ lemon * 4tbsp cranberry jelly * 1tsp Dijon mustard * 2tbsp port * 75g cranberries

1 Put gammon, onion, carrot, peppercorns, bay leaf, thyme and cider in pan, pour in the cider and enough water to cover. Simmer for 90 mins. Turn off heat and leave in water for 2 hrs to keep moist.

2 Make the glaze by heating the orange and lemon zest and juices in a pan with the cranberry jelly, mustard and port. Bring to boil and simmer for 5 mins until syrupy.

3 Preheat oven to 200°C/Gas 6. Put gammon in a baking tin and score the fat. Cover with glaze and cook for 10 mins, basting occasionally. Top the gammon with orange slices and cranberries and cook for 10 mins more.

MINI TEX-MEX SPUDS

TAKES 1HR 10MINS SERVES 8

* 1kg mini new potatoes * 2tbsp olive oil * 1tsp sea salt * 400g Tex-Mex multipack dip * Coriander sprig * 1tsp

salsa * Chives * 5 peppadew peppers, drained and sliced

1 Use a melon baller to scoop flesh out of the potatoes. Put skins in a baking tin and drizzle with oil and salt. Cover with foil and bake at 190°C/Gas 5 for 1 hr.

2 Take the dip and divide between the potatoes. Top the salsa ones with chives, guacamole with coriander and soured cream with peppadew peppers.

TURKEY SALAD

TAKES 15MINS SERVES 6

FOR THE DRESSING 4tbsp extra virgin olive oil * 4tbsp red wine vinegar * 2tbsp runny honey * 1tbsp Dijon mustard **FOR THE SALAD** ½ red cabbage, sliced * 1 red pepper, sliced * 1 x 295g can mandarins, drained * 100g pomegranate seeds * 400g leftover turkey, shredded * 100g pecans * 75g watercress * 75g rocket

1 Pour the olive oil, vinegar, honey and mustard into a jam jar, season well, seal the jar and shake vigorously.

2 In a bowl, mix the red cabbage, pepper, mandarins, pomegranate seeds, turkey and pecans. Pour the dressing over and mix. Toss in the watercress and rocket just before serving.



Post pics of your Christmas cooking triumphs at [facebook.com/styleathomemag](https://www.facebook.com/styleathomemag)

FILO SALMON PARCEL

TAKES 1HR 10MINS SERVES 16

* 300g filo pastry * 100g butter, melted * 2 x 1kg salmon fillet * Zest and juice 1 lemon * 200g baby spinach leaves * 1 garlic clove, crushed * 2 x 290g jar roasted peppers, sliced

1 Preheat oven to 200°C/Gas 6. Brush one sheet of filo with the melted butter, layer another sheet on top and also brush with butter. Fold the top and bottom over to make a rectangle slightly smaller than the salmon fillet. Bake on a lined baking tray for 5 mins. Set to one side.

2 Season and sprinkle lemon juice on the salmon fillets and bake for 10 mins. Steam the spinach and garlic with 2tbsp water in a lidded pan for 2 mins until wilted. Press through a sieve to squeeze out moisture, then season.

3 Put one piece of salmon on the cooked filo pastry, spread over the spinach then top with the peppers. Put the second salmon fillet on top. Cut remaining filo pastry into strips, brush with melted butter and arrange on top to cover. Bake for 25 mins until slightly golden. Serve hot or cold.

DON'T FORGET TO MIX UP YOUR LEFTOVER CHRISTMAS VEGGIES TO MAKE BUBBLE & SQUEAK

CRANBERRY ETON MESS TRIFLE

TAKES 1HR 30MINS SERVES 16

FOR THE MERINGUES 2 egg whites * 100g caster sugar * 1tsp vanilla extract * 1tsp cornflour * 1tsp white vinegar **FOR THE FRUIT** 600g cranberries * 250g caster sugar * 3tbsp thickening granules * 250g raspberries **FOR THE CUSTARD** 500g mascarpone * 50g caster sugar * 1tsp vanilla extract * 500g vanilla custard **FOR THE SPONGE** 290g Madeira cake * 150g ratafia biscuits * 150ml amaretto **FOR THE TOP** 300ml whipped cream * edible glitter

1 For the meringues, preheat oven to 150°C/Gas 2 and line two trays with parchment. Whisk egg whites until stiff. Keep whisking and add sugar 1tsp at a

time. Stir the vanilla, cornflour and vinegar together. Whisk into the whites. Put in a piping bag and pipe into peaks. Bake for 1 hr. Leave to cool with the door open.

2 For the fruit, put cranberries and sugar in a pan with 300ml water. Simmer for 12 mins, add the thickening granules and heat until thick. Add raspberries, leave to cool.

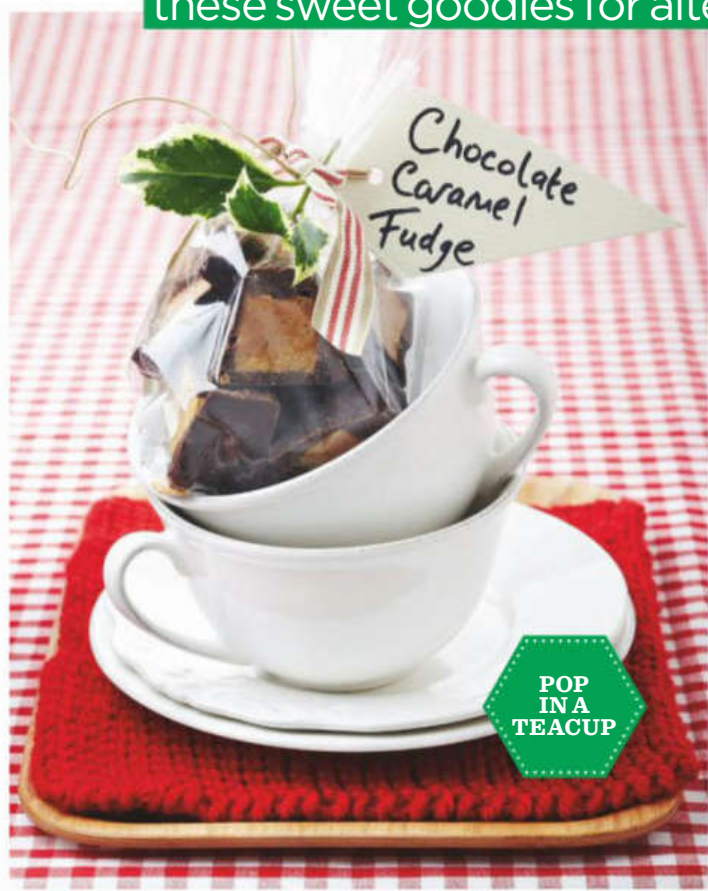
3 For the custard, mix together the mascarpone, sugar, vanilla and custard.

4 Cut the cake in half lengthways and into thin slices. Arrange half in a trifle bowl, top with half the biscuits and half the amaretto. Spoon over half the fruit and pipe over all the custard. Repeat and top with the cream, meringues and glitter.



Make your own TASTY PRESENTS

Get busy in the kitchen and have a go at creating these sweet goodies for alternative gifts



CHOCOLATE CARAMEL FUDGE

TAKES 1 HR 10MIN MAKES 24 PIECES (6 GIFT BAGS)

Put **90g butter**, **170g can evaporated milk**, **500g granulated sugar**, **1 x 397g can caramel** and **1tsp vanilla extract** in a pan and heat until sugar has dissolved. Boil for 8 mins until fudge thickens. When ready put base of pan in cold water to stop cooking process. Whisk with electric mixer for 5 mins. Pour into 18cm square,

lined tin. When cool, cut into 24 pieces. Put **600g broken dark chocolate** in heatproof bowl over simmering water and melt. Pour half into a clean, 12-hole ice tray. Top each section with fudge and pour on more chocolate. Chill in fridge for several hours. Wrap the fudge in cellophane bags and tie with ribbon and label.

APRICOT STOLLEN

**TAKES 2HRS + PROVING
SERVES 12**

★ 325g strong white flour
★ 7g sachet easy-blend yeast ★ 45g golden caster sugar ★ 1 egg, lightly beaten
★ 45g butter, melted ★ 100ml warm milk ★ 250g soft dried apricots, chopped
★ 4tbsp orange liqueur
★ 100g pistachios ★ 60g dried cranberries ★ 100g white chocolate, chopped
★ 2tsp icing sugar

1 Mix the flour, yeast and sugar in a bowl. Add the egg, butter and milk. Knead by hand for 10 mins until smooth and elastic. Put into a greased bowl, cover with clingfilm and leave in warm place for 1 hour till twice as big.

2 Put apricots and liqueur in a pan and warm through. Finely grind the pistachios in a blender then add cranberries, chocolate, apricots and liqueur and whizz to combine. Roll the apricot mixture into a log shape about 25cm in length. Freeze for 10 mins to firm up.

3 Roll out the dough on a floured surface to 28 x 18cm shape. Place apricot log on top, fold over the dough and press edges to seal. Cover with clingfilm and leave in warm place for 30 mins.

4 Preheat oven to 190°C/Gas 5. Bake stollen for 25 mins. Cool on a rack. Dust with icing sugar. Decorate with brown paper, a label and berries.

WRAP
IN PRETTY
RIBBON





MULLED JELLY

**TAKES 1 HR 50 MIN + DRIPPING
MAKES 6 SMALL JARS**

Cut 1.6kg cooking apples into chunks and put in a pan with **700g cranberries, 400ml red wine, 3 cinnamon sticks, 1tbsp cloves and 6 star anise**. Add 1ltr water, bring to boil. Simmer for 1hr. Ladle into a muslin tied with string over a bowl. Allow to drip overnight. For every 600ml juice, add **450g preserving sugar** in a pan and heat until dissolved. Boil for 10 mins, skim off any scum. Check it's set by putting a bit on a cold plate - it should wrinkle when touched. Pour into 6 sterilised jam jars and decorate.

**POP YOUR FAVOURITE DRY COOKIE MIX INGREDIENTS
IN A JAR WITH A RECIPE ATTACHED ON A
PRETTY LABEL FOR A FUN GIFT**

GINGER COOKIES

TAKES 1HR MAKES 20

★ 300g plain flour ★ 1tsp baking powder ★ ½tsp ground ginger ★ ½tsp mixed spice ★ ¼tsp allspice ★ 100g butter ★ 100g soft brown sugar ★ 2 eggs ★ 65g golden syrup ★ 200g icing sugar

1 Preheat oven to 170°C/Gas 3. Sift flour, baking powder, spices and a pinch of salt into a bowl. Rub in butter until it looks like breadcrumbs. Mix in sugar.

2 Beat the eggs and syrup, mix into flour. Knead. Wrap in clingfilm and chill for 30 mins. Roll out dough to 6mm thick on floured surface, cut into shapes. Bake for 12 mins. Cool on a rack.

3 Mix icing sugar with a few drops of water. Pipe onto biscuits. Put in a tin with a label.



FLORENTINES

TAKES 45MINS MAKES 15

Preheat the oven to 180°C/Gas 4. Melt **30g butter, 30g light muscovado sugar and 1tbsp honey** in a pan over a low heat. Mix in **2tbsp plain flour**. Remove from the heat. Stir in **30g diced glace cherries, 30g diced mixed peel and 50g diced roasted and salted mixed nuts**. Line two baking sheets with parchment and add spoonfuls of the mixture spaced well apart. Bake for 10 mins or until golden. Leave to cool. Melt **50g white chocolate** and **50g dark chocolate** separately in bowls over simmering water (don't let the water touch the bowls). Drizzle over the florentines and leave to set. Place in a pretty box.



finish with...



TALKING TABLES
Ho Ho Ho Christmas tags, £3.50 for eight



LAKELAND
Red Festive Felt trim, £6.98 for 3m



JOHN LEWIS
Different Perspective Cute Little bag, mini, £1.75

For the baker

OLD SCHOOL FAVOURITES

Dexam classic British biscuit cutters, £10.99 for four, The Emporium Cookshop

TROPICAL TREAT

Pineapple apron, £24.95, Thornback & Peel

READY STEADY BAKE!

YUMMY DISPLAY

Artesa three tier stand, £19.95, Lakeland

CUTE BAKES

Rusty the Fox cupcake kit, £5.95, Dotcomgiftshop

KITTED OUT

At Home with Ashley Thomas cake set, £15, Debenhams

WEIGHT IT UP

Measuring spoons, £10 for four, Very

GET BAKING

Bake It Great by Luis Troyano, £20, Pavilion Books

For the mixologist

SERVE IN STYLE

Hammered metal tray, £12, Next

FANCY FIZZ

Gold Spot Champagne flutes, £10 for four, Wilko

SHAKEN OR STIRRED

Casa Couture Copper cocktail shaker and tool kit, £30, House of Fraser

FAVOURITE BLEND

Create Your Own winter gin kit, £15, Marks & Spencer

BANG ON TREND

GLAM DESIGN

Roberto Cavalli, limited edition Disaronno, £15 (500ml), Morrisons

LET IT BREATHE

Sagaform wine carafe with oak stopper, £25, Forma House

PUT IT ON ICE

Gold pineapple ice bucket, £25, John Lewis

30 gifts UNDER £35

Take your pick from our favourite foodie presents, whether you have a mixologist in the making or a budding baker in the family

For the family

SOMETHING SWEET

Stollen bites,
£10.95, Bettys

MELT IN THE MOUTH

Lindor maxi ball milk,
£14.99 (550g), Lindt

TAKE THE BISCUIT

Minions sweets
and treats jar,
£29.95, Red5

DOGGY STYLE

Pug mug, £8,
50fifty-gifts.com

SALT'N' SWEET

Chef'n PopTop
popcorn popper,
£20, Amazon

DRY AWAY

Flamingo design
tea towel, £12.95,
Cuckooland.com

ADD A STYLISH TOUCH**JAM PACKED**

Sweet preserve
Christmas house,
£8.30, The Bay Tree

SUGAR HIT

Sweet Cup, £1
(165g), The
Co-operative

For the hostess

TEA TIME

Vintage tea
tray, £18, Bhs

PICK'N' MIX

Kozio! Nick
party set,
£18.50, Exit
Interiors

GREAT FOR PARTIES**GO ITALIAN**

Parmigiano Reggiano
grater and olive oil set
(100ml), £15, Waitrose

TAKE A BREAK

Barista & Co
three-cup
coffee plunge
pot, £34,
Amara

GREAT TASTE

Baci di Dama,
£17.95, Carluccio's

MELT IN THE MIDDLE

Gourmet cheese
Camembert baker,
£12, Sainsbury's

POTLUCK

Woodland
Rose teapot,
£28, Cath
Kidston

NICE BREW

12 teas of
Christmas,
£20, Whittard

Bake a classic CHRISTMAS CAKE

Create the perfect centrepiece for your celebrations
with our easy last-minute fruit cake recipe

ADD
PRETTY
DECS



CHRISTMAS CAKE

TAKES 3HRS 30MINS SERVES 12

* 3 large eggs * 300g plain flour
* 250g butter * 250g light muscovado
sugar * 1tbsp mixed spice * Pinch
salt * 410g jar mincemeat * 500g
dried mixed fruit * 4tbsp brandy
* 4tbsp apricot jam, warmed * 750g
marzipan * 1kg white sugar paste
* Edible glue and holly decorations

1 Preheat to 140°C/Gas 1. Mix together the eggs, flour, butter, sugar, mixed spice, salt, mincemeat and fruit in a bowl. Beat until smooth. Grease and line a 20cm round cake tin with parchment. Pour in the cake mix and smooth over.

2 Bake for 3 hrs or until the cake feels firm to touch and a skewer

inserted comes out clean. Leave to cool for 15 mins, drizzle over the brandy and leave to cool completely in the tin.

3 Place on a serving dish. Brush over the jam. Roll out the marzipan on a surface lightly dusted with icing sugar so it's big enough to cover the top and sides of the cake. Smooth down the marzipan with an icing smoother. Trim any excess.

4 Roll out the sugarpaste so it's large enough to cover the cake. Brush water all over the marzipan and carefully cover with the sugarpaste. Use the icing smoother to smooth the edges and trim away excess.

5 Use the edible glue to stick the holly decorations in a circle around the top of the cake to finish.

Or try these...

SAINSBURY'S

Taste the Difference
Garland cake,
£16 (1.5kg)



THE CO- OPERATIVE

Snowman cake,
£6 (640g)



TESCO

Finest Winter
berry and pine
cone fruit cake,
£20 (1kg)



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OUR WEEKLY TREAT FROM US TO YOU



Hello,

With school back in full swing, what better way to get the kids reading than a cosy snug where they can let their imaginations run wild? If you have a spare couple of hours this weekend, take a look at our fab upcycling ideas and make sure you check out this fun house tour, we love the printer's tray and all the quirky bits and bobs on display! Don't forget to pick up your copy and give Food Ed Amy's recipes a try. We can vouch for the gingerbread house!

Love, the *Style at Home* team



House tour of the week



Take a look inside this beautiful home – it's filled with beautiful, quirky finds that make it stand out from the crowd. Be inspired by the way picture frames have been displayed.

5 speedy craft projects



Have you got an old shelf collecting dust in the loft? Try out our funky upcycling projects, which all take less than two hours and give your home an update on a budget.

Sign up free! at housetohome.co.uk/thehomestylist

100 buys

'Tis the season to
decorate! Pick from
nine festive looks



**HERD
'EM UP**
Two gilded
deer, £30,
Cox & Cox



**GOLDEN
TOUCH**
Decoration,
£5, National
Portrait
Gallery

**ON THE
PULL**
Cracker
card, £4.50,
John Lewis



SHINE ON
Christmas tree
lantern, £93,
Out There
Interiors

GOLDEN GLOW

Add shimmer and sparkle
with this metallic hue



**BLING
TASTIC**
Gold glitter
stocking,
£19.15,
Junky Dot
Com at
Zazzle



**ALL THAT
GLITTERS**
Decoration,
£10, Heal's

BRANCH OUT
White twig tree,
from £21, The
Contemporary Home



HANG UP
Champagne
gold garland,
£29, Very

PULL IT!
Luxury gold
cracker,
£14.99 for
six, Dobbies



**CALL OF
THE WILD**
Bauble, £1.50,
Tesco Direct



WISE BUY



SHAKE IT
Owl scene
decoration,
£4, Bhs

BEAR HUG
Beary Christmas
card, £2.50,
Paperchase



**PICK UP A
PENGUIN**
Emperor gift
wrap, £1.50
per sheet,
Julia Davey



FUZZY FEEL
Otto stocking,
£15, Habitat



**STYLISH
SETTING**
Sparkle table
runner, £14,
John Lewis



and ALL the
TRIMMINGS...

WHAT A SPREAD

White platter, £10,
Tesco Direct

LET THERE BE LIGHT

White lantern,
£15, Matalan

SNOW FALL

Snowflake
cracker, £25
for 10, House
of Fraser

ON A ROLL

Mini wreath,
£10, Marks
& Spencer

*It's the most
Wonderful
TIME OF THE
YEAR!*

HAVE A HEART

Metal heart
bauble, £5,
Debenhams

**HANG
UP
INSIDE**

ICY WHITE

Create a winter wonderland
with crisp white decs

SERVE UP

Embossed
snowflake
dinner plate,
£2, Wilko

WHITE HOUSE

Metal hanging
house, £5.99,
HomeSense

MIX 'N' MATCH

Luxury crackers,
£20 for 12,
Debenhams

STARRY NIGHT

Hearts and stars
wooden garland,
£6.99, Anjo

SPELL IT OUT

Noel light, £20,
George Home

SLEIGH BELLS

Decoration, £4.50,
The Contemporary
Home

NOEL

*Merry
Christmas*

GOOD TIDINGS

Vintage
Christmas
cards, £6
for 10, Bhs

NOSTALGIC NOEL

Deck the halls with traditional
bright red accessories

RED ALERT

Christmas
table runner,
£1, Poundland

NORDIC STYLE

Pom pom
stocking,
£25, House
of Fraser

ROUND UP!

Paper plates, £3.50 for
eight, Talking Tables

STUFF YOURSELF
CHRISTMAS PUD

HOT STUFF

Red metal
lantern,
£14.99,
Dobbies

LAST POST

Resin postbox
decoration, £4,
Marks & Spencer

DOT TO DOT

Spot wrapping paper,
£3.50 per roll, John Lewis

CONTEMPORARY COPPER

Keep your scheme warm with this glowing tone



SEASON'S GREETINGS

Damask card, £2.40, Chic Greek Boutique at Zazzle



FLICKER ON

Copper top lantern, £8, Matalan



NEW LEAF

Gold leaf wreath, £39.50, Marks & Spencer



SANTA'S ON HIS WAY

Stocking, £12, Next



TWIT TWOO

Matt Pugh maxi owl ornament, £45, Amara



GLITZ 'N' GLAM

Sequin table runner, £20, Notonthehighstreet.com

BANG BANG

Luxury copper crackers, £40, Cox & Cox



SERVE WITH LOVE



WARM WORDS

Plate, £4.99, H&M

BRONZE BEAUTY

Ribbed copper glass bauble, £3.99, Dobbies



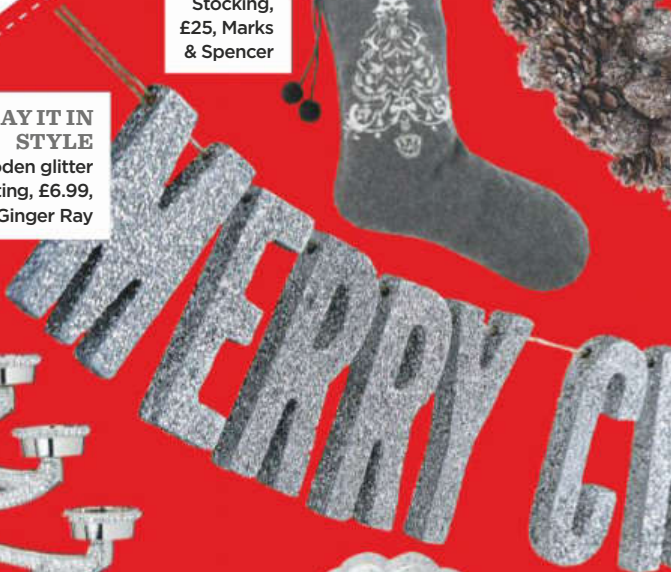
CHIC CHOICE

Stocking, £25, Marks & Spencer



SAY IT IN STYLE

Wooden glitter bunting, £6.99, Ginger Ray



FEELING FROSTY

Oriana lantern, £55, Next



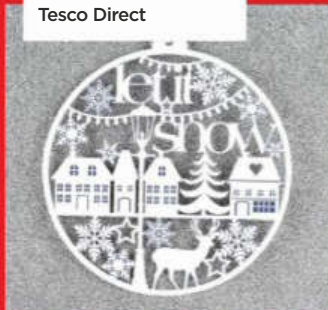
SNOWY SCENE

Tree tealight holder, £19.99, HomeSense



FREEZE FRAME

Let it Snow charity cards, £4 for six, Tesco Direct



ONE IN A MILLION

Snowflakes, £5 for four, The Contemporary Home



RUN ON

Beaded table runner, £32, Debenhams



GOOD CAUSE

Charity cards, £1 per pack, Poundland



CHAIN REACTION
Sequin metallic garland, £10, Habitat

HAVE A BALL
Glass bauble, £4.99 each, Retreat Home

PRIDE OF PLACE
Dome stag and tree decoration, £4.99, Dunelm

PICK A PLATE
Grey sketch floral dinner plate, £3.50 Sainsbury's

SPARKLING SILVER

Put some twinkle into your home with a frosted finish

PINE FOR IT
Frosted pinecone wreath, £50, House of Fraser

WRAP UP!
Frozen snowflake wrap, £2 per roll, Wilko

SILVER LINING
Luxury cracker, £14.99 for six, Dobbies

PURPLE HAZE
Lantern, £39, Idyll Home

POP ON THE MANTEL

GO FULL CIRCLE
Poinsettia pine wreath, £16.99, Dunelm

FILL ME UP
Lambswool stocking, £60, Tori Murphy

IN THE DETAIL
Decoration, £3, George Home

LUXE LOOK
Tree print glass hurricane, £10, Sainsbury's

DECADENT DAMSON

Use plush purple shades to give your rooms a luxe look

BE BOLD
Bauble, £5 for 12, Marks & Spencer

PRETTY AS A...
Peacock gift wrap, £1.95 per sheet, Chase and Wonder

HONEY TONE
Lights, £7.99, HomeSense

SET THE TABLE
Fargrik dark lilac plate, 80p, Ikea

JUMP OUT
Exclusive Garden Crackers with keepsake storage tin, £29.99, Wyevale

BEAUTIFUL BLUSH

Bring a subtle charm to your home with pale pinks and splashes of gold

STAR MIX

Antares star stocking
£60, Tori Murphy

TRY ANGLES

Pink geometric paper, £2.80 per sheet, Notonthehighstreet.com

THIS WAY

Arrow light,
£9.99, New Look

WORD ART

Wreath charity cards, £4 for six, Tesco Direct

LIGHT UP

Mercury tealight holder, £10, The White Company

SPOT ON

Gold metallic spot tree platter, £8, Bhs

LOVE HEART

Bauble, £1, Poundland

OFF WITH A BANG

Stag crackers, £25 for 10, House of Fraser

JINGLE BELLS

Vinter deco wreath,
£14, Ikea

SIMPLE CHARM

Wooden lantern,
£10, George Home

POP UP

3D tree charity cards,
£4 for six, Tesco Direct

BOLD CENTRE PIECE

HATS OFF

Mr Frost Christmas ornament,
£28, Neptune

IT'S A WRAP

Vinter gift wrap,
£1.75 per roll, Ikea

CRACK ON

Brown paper crackers,
£13 for six, Paperchase

ADD NAME TAGS

FURRY NUMBER

Faux fur stocking,
£30, House of Fraser

RED NOSE

Rattan reindeer,
£7.99, Homebase

LAY IT OUT

Enigt table runner, £6, Ikea

THINK PINK

Bauble, £3.10,
Gisela Graham

AU NATUREL

Iron Lara Linen
runner, £13.99,
Linen Me

SHARE IT

Forest Friends
plate, £22.50 for
four, Magpie

WORDS LAURIE DAVIDSON
& CASSIE PRYCE

WOODLAND WONDER

Take a walk on the wild side
with lodge-style touches

INTO THE WOODS

Mini wreath, £10,
Marks & Spencer

WISH UPON A STAR

Decoration,
99p, Dunelm

BERRY NICE

Twig and
berry garland,
£21, The
Contemporary
Home

HOLLY & THE IVY

Luxury foil crackers,
£18 for six, Tesco Direct

DELICATE DESIGN

Bauble, £9
for assorted
pack of 50,
B&Q

RUSTIC LOOK

Decoration,
£1, Wilko

FINE DETAIL

Laser-cut tree
card, £2.75,
Paperchase

GREEN & PLEASANT

Angarsk green bauble
wreath, £30, Habitat

FESTIVE TRIM

Garland with
cones and berries,
£29, Very

COLOUR BURST

Felt stocking,
£5.99, Dobbies

ALL THE TRIMMINGS

Green salad plate,
£12.50, Amara

ENCHANTED FOREST

Branch out a little and dress your
interior with glamorous greens

PUCKER UP

Mistletoe
Christmas
tree, £14.95,
Dotcomgiftshop

EYES ON YOU

Owl tealight holder,
£27, Debenhams

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THIS MONTH'S *Do it*

Choose festive decorations to complement your scheme. Fairy lights hung from the ceiling add a Christmas sparkle, while seasonal red berries bring out the accent colour. You can even match your giftwrap to finish off the look!

Stylists *at Home*



SABRINA SAYS

'Fairy lights are a great way to add a magic feel. You could also make bunting, using rustic ribbon and pretty decorations.'

Add festive elements to Scandi-style furnishings for a subtle Yuletide scheme

Style at Home

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lizzie

Lizzie Hudson, Acting Editor

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Countdown to CHRISTMAS

Our ultimate list of last-minute tasks for
a fabulously fuss-free holiday season

As magical and exciting as Christmas can be, in reality, the to-do lists and preparations can begin to feel a little overwhelming and it's a job to know exactly what needs to be done, and when to do it. Take a look at our Christmas Countdown and follow our favourite tips to give you a head start on the holidays, and ensure you enjoy a stress-free festive season.



1 Dress the tree

A healthy real tree should last six weeks in a home, if it's cared for correctly. Great news if you can't wait until a little closer to the big day – you can start getting your baubles and decs out of the loft by the end of November! Go for a non-drop fir and you could enjoy your tree well into the New Year.



2 *Wrap your gifts*
Present-wrapping is one of the most time-consuming tasks on the lead up to the 25th. So it's best to start a few weeks beforehand and wrap as you buy, too. This not only keeps them out of sight from prying eyes, but also saves precious time.



3 Get baking

Ideally, you'd bake a Christmas cake around 12 weeks before the festivities begin. This gives it enough time to properly mature while you feed it with your choice of alcohol over the weeks. When it's a little closer to Christmas you can decorate the cake with either sugarpaste or royal icing, or simply enjoy it bare. See page 72 for the perfect decorating idea.



4 *Set the table*

Save time and stress in the run-up to sitting down to your turkey by laying the dining table the day before. Get creative, and have a go at making your own place tags, crackers and other accessories to create a truly unique display for your family and guests. Pop some little favours at each place setting, too, and don't forget to set out your home-baked Christmas cake, which will take pride of place, of course!



6 *Write festive cards*

Get organised and avoid the panic of sending Christmas cards by starting them early. Be sure to make a note of the Royal Mail's last-post dates for the UK – this year, it's 21 December for first class and 19 December for second class – to ensure your greetings arrive in time (visit the Royal Mail website for overseas dates). Then sit back with a mince pie and feel smug for beating the Post Office rush!

5 *Welcome guests*

A few days to one week before you kick off the celebrations, it's a good idea to give your home a thorough clean and make up the spare rooms for your overnight visitors. A few little extras such as pretty soaps, fresh flowers and cosy blankets will make their stay really special.



BUY FRESH FLOWERS, MISTLETOE AND EUCALYPTUS A FEW DAYS BEFORE TO CREATE A TRULY FESTIVE NATURAL DISPLAY



7 *Make ahead*
There is so much you can bake ahead of time and freeze – stollen, sausage rolls, pies and more. It'll save you time, let you plan your dinner menu in advance, and quickly feed surprise guests.

8 *Stocktake your decs*

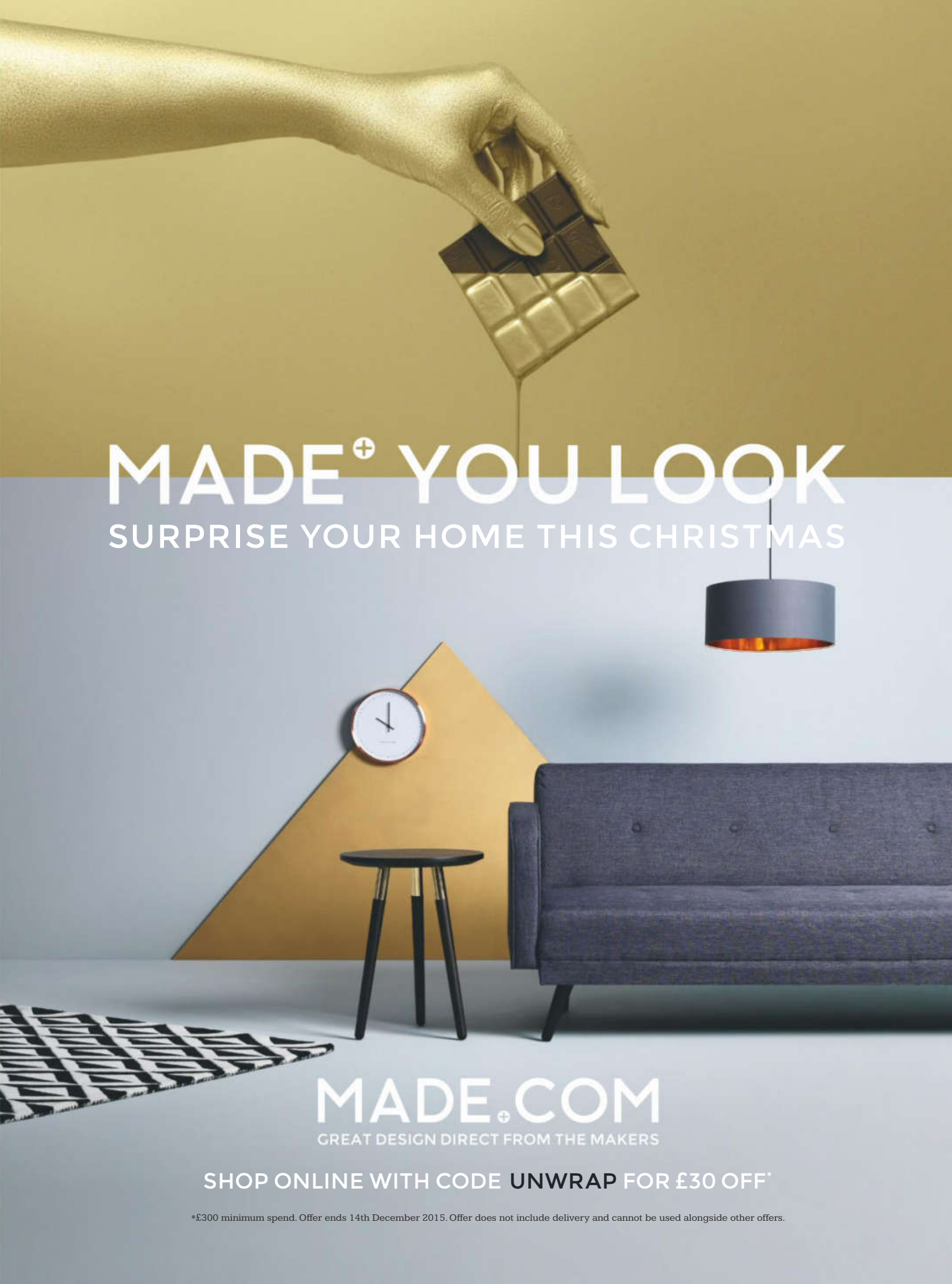
About a month before you plan to put up your tree, get all the decs down from the loft and take stock of what you have. The shops will be full of the latest trends and ranges, so have a think about the look you want to recreate in your own home. Would you like to transform your lounge into a frosty winter wonderland or perhaps a rustic woodland retreat?

9 *Order the turkey*

Nothing beats a traditional dinner with all the family on Christmas Day. You can pick up a suitable bird from a supermarket easily enough, but if you order one from a dedicated farm you'll be making your festive lunch extra special. A Kelly Bronze turkey will turn an ordinary meal into a fabulous one – order yours today with nationwide delivery.



For more great ways to make your Christmas run smoothly, go to pinterest.com/styleathomemag



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It could be designer...

MARBLE TABLE

Love this trend? Try your hand at creating a luxury lookalike

Give your living room an on-trend update with our DIY upcycled side table, inspired by the beautiful marble coffee table from Rockett St George. This simple project uses sticky back plastic and spray paint to get the luxury look for less.

TAKES 4HRS* COST £21.47

- ★ Side table with removable top
- ★ Valspar copper spray paint, £8.24 for 400ml, B&Q
- ★ PlastiKote primer in white, £6.24 for 400ml, Amazon
- ★ d-c-fix marble vinyl, £6.99 per roll, Amazon
- ★ Screwdriver
- ★ Ruler & pencil
- ★ Cutting mat & scalpel

1 Unscrew the table top from the frame and set to one side. Working outside on a dust sheet, apply primer to the frame and leave to dry thoroughly. Apply two coats of copper paint to the frame, leaving to dry between coats.

2 Lay the marble vinyl face down on a flat surface and place the table top onto this. Use a pencil and ruler to draw out an area on the back of the vinyl larger than the table top and enough to cover the edges and wrap 1cm underneath. Cut out using a scalpel and craft mat, and then carefully stick to the table top, smoothing out any air bubbles. Reattach the table top using a screwdriver.

**LESS
THAN
£22**

STYLISH ADDITIONS

Geo Cotton Dhurry rug, from £44.99, Dunelm. Harlequin accent wallpaper in Emerald, £65 per roll; Croft Linney concrete table lamp, £50, both John Lewis. Linea copper leaf tray, £15, House of Fraser

Fold the corners of the vinyl as if wrapping a present, for a neat finish

SPLASH OUT

Marble top copper square coffee table, £225, Rockett St George



We really want to see your upcycling pics! Share them using hashtags **#stylistsrevamps** or **#stylistsmakes**

Give it a go! REVAMPS AT HOME

Update existing furniture and accessories with our step-by-step upcycling ideas

PEG STARS

Make homespun decorations from simple clothes pegs



TAKES 30MINS COST £1

* Wooden sprung clothes pegs * Hot-glue gun * Small length of twine or string * Drill & paintbrush * White paint tester pot, £1, Wilko * Fine sandpaper

- 1 Separate a clothes peg in half. Repeat with seven more. Using a hot-glue gun, stick pegs together in pairs, back to back.
- 2 Drill a small hole for twine near the top of one of the pairs and glue the tips (on the diagonal) of four pegs together to create a cross shape. Add four more pairs.
- 3 Paint white and, when dry, rub lightly with sandpaper for a weathered look.

Small artificial tree in aluminium pot, £19.99, Dobbies



RUSTIC SCANDI STYLE

COSTS UNDER £17



BEDSIDE TABLE

Use pretty wrapping to update your bedroom furniture

TAKES 1.5HRS COST £16.19

* Bedside unit * Valspar Sacred Grove spray paint, £9.24, B&Q * PVA glue * Poppy Meadow gift wrap, £6.95 for five sheets, Dotcomgiftshop * Fine sandpaper

- 1 Rub down the unit with sandpaper and wipe away all dust. Remove drawer pull and coat the unit with two or three layers of green paint, leaving to dry between

each (paint edges of the drawer but not the front or the bottom shelf). Spray the drawer pull, too.

- 2 Cut the wrapping paper to size to fit the drawer front and the bottom shelf of the unit. Coat the wood to be covered by the paper with a layer of PVA glue and smooth the paper into place. Leave to dry thoroughly before applying a thin protective layer of glue over the top of the paper. Once dry, reattach the drawer pull.



Red knit throw, £25; mug, £2.50, both Sainsbury's. Felt snowflake garland, £16; cushion, £20, both House of Fraser. Wooden reindeer, £7.50, The Contemporary Home

PROJECTS BECKY CLARKE STYLING CASSIE PRYCE PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID GILES



Red tissue paper, £1.50 for five sheets; Emma Bridgewater tissue paper, £3 for four sheets, both John Lewis

COOKIE CUTTER CANDLES

Have a go at these cute handmade gifts



TAKES 1HR COST £10.90

* Craft knife & cutting mat * Tealights, £4.95 for 12, Dotcomgiftshop * Tin can * Saucepan * Christmas Carnival biscuit cutters, £5.95 for six, Dotcomgiftshop * Greaseproof paper * Wax crayons

1 Using a craft knife on a mat, cut a tealight into pieces, saving the wick. You will need three cut tealights to fill each cutter. Put the wax into a clean tin can. Stand in a saucepan with a few cms of boiling water and allow the wax to melt.

2 Remove the can and leave to slightly cool. Put a cookie cutter on greaseproof paper with the wick in the centre and pour in the wax. Remove from the cutter when set. For coloured candles, add a crayon into the wax as it melts. When lit, place on a dish, and never leave candles unattended.

GREAT GIFT IDEA

ADAPT THIS PROJECT TO SUIT ANY CHRISTMAS LOOK – MIX AND MATCH DIFFERENT PAPERS TO SUIT YOUR SCHEME

CHRISTMAS CANDELABRA

Give an unused candle holder a lick of paint for a new lease of life



TAKES 1HR COST £7.49

* Candelabra * Rust-Oleum Painter's Touch spray paint in Cherry Red, £5.49 for 400ml, Amazon * Gold paint, £2 for 75ml, Hobbycraft * Fine paintbrush

1 Clean the candelabra thoroughly to make sure you remove any traces of wax and debris. Working outside on a dust sheet, spray it with several thin layers of red spray paint, leaving to dry completely between coats.

2 Once the candelabra is completely dry, use a fine paintbrush and gold paint to add detailing to the design, for a decorative finish. We used dots to decorate our design, but you could try painting something in a more elaborate pattern.

BRAND NEW LOOK!

Green 6ft holly garland, £19.99, Dobbies. Tree decoration, from £2.99, Dunelm. Assorted Christmas cards, from £6 for a pack of 16; jar snowglobe, £12, both Bhs



Subscribe to *Style at Home* at magazinesdirect.com/CLP5 for lots more craft ideas straight to your door.

Handmade TREE DECS

Get creative this Christmas with our selection of simple
homespun decorations that suit every look

If you're looking for a brand new set of decorations to spruce up your tree this year, or you're after some simple crafts to try out with the kids, we've got plenty of projects to get your creative juices flowing. Cosy up by the fire with your craft kit and try your hand at these festive ideas to add a personalised touch to your styling this Christmas.

Don't forget to stock up on the essentials before you begin. A hot-glue gun will come in handy for lots of these makes, and be sure to have a pair of fabric scissors at the ready for trimming ribbons. Update your ribbon stash so you have lots of choice and keep hold of leftover pieces to use as loops for hanging decorations.

PINECONE OWL

Get cute woodland style

Cut out pieces of felt to make the wings and face for your character, then glue onto a pinecone using a hot-glue gun.



CINNAMON STICK

Set a rustic scene with this natural ornament

- 1 Use a hot-glue gun to stick two cinnamon sticks together. Wrap ribbon around the centre and glue a dried orange slice to the top.
- 2 Thread wired faux berries underneath the orange slice and glue in place if necessary. Add a loop of ribbon to hang.



PAPER WHEEL

Try this easy project

Cut leftover giftwrap into three 12 x 9cm rectangles and fold into 1cm pleats. Fold each of these in half along the short side and stick the sides together to make a full circle.



BAUBLE LABELS

Spell out glad tidings

It's time to dust off the label maker and type festive messages to update plain baubles. Use coloured tapes for a fun, retro look.



Scatter glitter feathers on your Christmas table



CERAMIC STAR

See stars this Christmas

Roll out air dry clay and **cut into star shapes with a cookie cutter**. Stamp on a message of your choice and make a hole at the top point. Once dry, **apply a coloured wash with watered-down acrylic paint**.

Thread several fabric gingerbread men onto ribbon to make a garland

GINGERBREAD MAN

Try your hand at this super simple sewing project

- 1 Cut two pieces of hessian fabric into the shape of a gingerbread man. Hand-stitch buttons and a face onto one piece of hessian.
- 2 Place the second piece of fabric underneath and hand-stitch the two together using thick yarn and a large headed needle.

GLAM FEATHERS

Stay unruffled with this glam and simple make

Add a touch of luxury to your Christmas styling with these simple dipped feathers. **Apply PVA glue to the bottom of each feather and sprinkle on glitter**. Shake off excess.

POM POM BALL

Go warm and fuzzy

Use a **pom pom maker and coloured yarn** to make these fluffy decorations. Hang on the tree or use to embellish gifts.

WINTER GLOBE

Opt for a retro feel

Cut two sprigs of faux foliage and choose a toy animal to create a forest scene. Use a circle of wadding to line the base of the globe and **stick in place using a hot-glue gun**.

My shopping list

Dymo embossing **label maker**, £21.77; Dymo **tape**, £10.15 for three; **felt squares**, 45p each; purple **feathers**, 80p for 20, all Fred Aldous. **Pinecones**, £1 for five, The Essentials Company. Christmas Carnival **wrapping paper**, £6.95 for five sheets, Dotcomgiftshop. **Cinnamon sticks**, £1.50 per pack; **orange slices**, £2 per pack; **wired berries**, £2.69 per pack; **hessian squares**, £4 for five; Fimo air dry **clay**, £4.49; Tala star **cookie cutter set**, £3; typewriter **letter stamps**, £10, all Hobbycraft. Hanging **glass globe**, £14.99, The Urban Botanist. **Hessian ribbon**, £3.50 for 5m; red and white **twine**, £2.75 for 10m; **scatter snow**, £5 for 40g, all Talking Tables. Green baker's **twine**, 75p for 5m; multicoloured **twine**, 75p for 5m; faux **linen ribbon** with red edging, 35p per m; **bobble trim**, 80p per m; wooden star stitched **buttons**, £1.25 for four, all Cloud Craft

Next month in...

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Winter update

Last-minute Christmas gifts everyone will love

PLUS

- * Learn to paint like a pro with our top tips
- * 3 Stylist's homes & 3 room makeovers
- * Easy craft ideas & high-street buys



See how Sarah gave her home a budget-savvy revamp

JANUARY ISSUE ON SALE 2 DECEMBER



Love it



Buy it



Do it



Make it



Cook it

THIS MONTH'S *Make it*

Use any festive-coloured wallpaper you have to make cracker-style decorations for a personalised table this Christmas. Complete the look by making name tags from last year's cards and tie them on with twine.

Customise your crackers with pretty ribbon and bright pom poms

Stylists *at Home*



SABRINA SAYS
'Make your own crackers with personalised gifts inside for each person and use glitter glue for extra sparkle.'

BIG DISCOUNTS

on top-quality paint

Refresh your home with the brand-new range from Pride & Joy

When it comes to giving your home a new look, a fresh coat of paint on walls or furniture works wonders. And with 769 contemporary, timeless shades in six different finishes to choose from, the new design-led colours from Pride & Joy offer something to suit all tastes. Check out the range and then enjoy 20% off for being a *Style at Home* reader.

These top-quality paints are easy to apply, non-drip and quick drying, so are perfect for a weekend room makeover.

Transform with colour

From powerful, bold hues to soft neutral shades, colour charts and sample pots are available so you can try out your favourites. The Biora collection features odourless wall and ceiling paints, while Aqua furniture paints can be used on primed wood and metal. Available exclusively through the Pride & Joy website (prideandjoy.me), all paints come in 900ml, 2.7ltr and 9ltr tins (except for the Futura Aqua 80, which comes in 900ml and 2.7ltr tins) and are available for next-day delivery.

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Pride & Joy
PAINTS

TERMS & CONDITIONS *Style at Home* readers receive 20% off Pride & Joy paints online at prideandjoy.me. To redeem your 20% discount, go to the website at prideandjoy.me and enter the code PJSH20 at the checkout. Discount valid from 25 October to 8 December 2015 and cannot be used in conjunction with any other special offer or promotion.

Look what you styled... CHIC ACCESSORIES

Click @styleathomemag on Instagram and tag your super-styled pictures with #SAHstylists for your chance to be featured right here

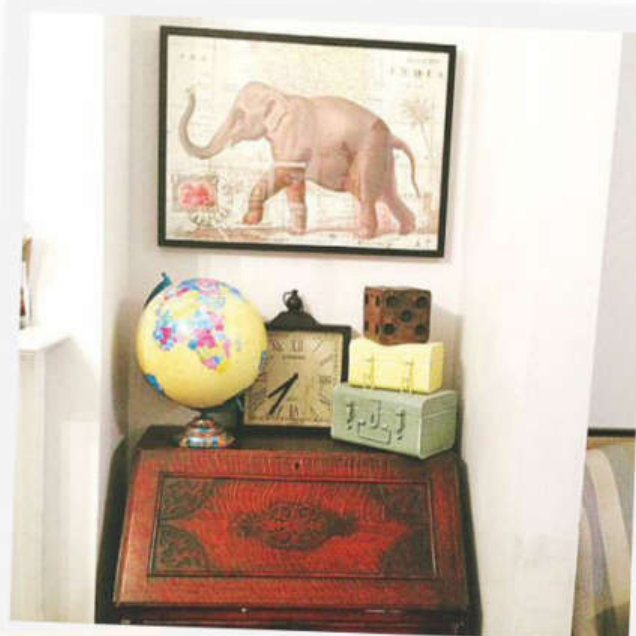
OFF THE WALL

Think outside the box when it comes to unusual styling ideas. This quirky shelving unit has been made from an upcycled wooden pallet and is the perfect spot to display trinkets and pretty accessories. Great idea @puppsiobhan, we love it!



SMART IDEA

Be inspired by @happyhomehouse and make the most of small alcoves with neatly fitting furniture and clever styling. Extend your display upwards using wall art or tall shelving to add height; this stylish elephant print is a sheet of framed gift-wrap that ties in with the vintage bureau.



PICTURE PERFECT

Display family photos as a gallery by mixing and matching frames, like @_craftydeb_. Use a picture ledge as the starting point and then hang frames around it to build up a cluster, then prop postcards or trinkets along the ledge.



RELAXED LOOK

Style up your living area with a mixture of accessories, as @shellykehoe has done. Flowers will instantly perk up a room and cosy cushions will make it feel homely. Don't forget to add a snuggly throw to keep warm.



Rustic revamp

Once you've mastered the basics of upcycling, try your hand at a larger project like this beautiful country-chic dresser by @boomakes. It's been given a whole new lease of life with Annie Sloan furniture paint and drawer pulls, while the preserved wooden worktop gives a nod to the original piece.



Join in and share your snaps with the Style at Home team on Instagram using #SAHstylists

'I've made it **FRESH AND FESTIVE'**

Stylist at Home Karen, 40, gave her tired old living room a new look, with sparkling finishing touches

MY ROOM...



ABOUT ME I'm Karen Garfield, 40, a customer-liaison manager for an electrical company. I live with my three daughters, Ella, nine, Lily, seven, and Mia, four, in our four-bedroom Victorian terrace in Ashford. I moved here with my husband 12 years ago, but after getting divorced last year, I wanted to redecorate to my own taste.

MY CHALLENGE We decorated the living room when we first moved in back in 2002. The paintwork was grubby and I definitely needed a new sofa – the old one was literally falling apart. I also wanted to utilise the alcoves with fitted storage.

MY WISH LIST My priority was to create a relaxed, adult space. There is an open-plan kitchen/living area at the back of the house where we all hang out together as a family, and the girls also have their own playroom, so I wanted this room to be a toy-free sanctuary.



OUR
COVER
STAR!

SOFA SOLUTION

'It was great to discover Freestyle of London and get the kind of classic-style sofa I was looking for'

STYLE TIP

'Stop baubles from rolling off the mantelpiece by sticking them down with white tack'

SEASONAL SHINE

'I've displayed some festive ornaments and added baubles for extra shine'



TOTAL
£3,632

**TURN OVER FOR
MY SHOPPING
LIST**

After getting divorced a year ago, I decided to redecorate to start afresh,' says Karen. 'I began with the bathroom, then the living room, so it would be ready in time for Christmas.'

The walls were crying out for a fresh coat of paint but I had to make a choice about the sofa first, as it was such a substantial piece and would make a real statement.

Starting point

The inspiration for the scheme was the sofa. I found a dove-grey fabric sample I loved from Loaf, but I couldn't find the right shape sofa there. I had classic in mind, to go with the period of the house. After doing some research online, I found a shop in Kingston called Freestyle of London. They offer a great range of designs in a wide selection of fabrics and I could create exactly what I was looking for.

Choosing colours

For the walls, I matched Farrow & Ball's Dimpse shade to the fabric sample I had for the sofa. I broke it up by painting the ceiling and the woodwork white.

As the backdrop to the room was predominantly grey and white, I wanted to bring in a splash of colour with the soft furnishings. I had a good look in John >>

Stylists at Home



**SAMANTHA
SAYS**

'If Karen wanted to update her scheme in the future she could swap the blush pink for navy and mustard accessories for an instant refresh.'

IT'S A WRAP

'I like to make matching gift tags out of leftover wrapping paper'



SPELL IT OUT

'I covered these mango wood letters in pink wrapping paper to fit in with the colour scheme'



Check out our blog cushienumber.co.uk for even more affordable must-have accessories.



SOFT SHADES

'White accessories come in different shapes and textures, silver adds glamour, and splashes of pink tie it all together'

'USE ANY LEFTOVER CURTAIN FABRIC TO MAKE CUSHION COVERS, SO THE SOFA LINKS WITH THE WINDOW TREATMENT'

» Lewis and then I found a fabric sample at Laura Ashley, which I loved – its pink and purple hues worked well with the grey.

Built-in storage

I've always liked fitted Victorian alcove cupboards and thought they'd give the room a smart finish, as well as providing great storage and an area for display. I knew a good carpenter who had fitted my wardrobe, so I found a picture online and showed him what I wanted. Once the cupboards were made and in place, I hired a sander and did the floor myself, which took a weekend. I then painted the living room over the next two weekends.

Styling the room

Once all the hard work was complete, it was time for the fun part – accessorising the room. I was drawn to the circular Venetian mirror as it was a contrast to the square shelves, and created a lovely focal point. I chose ornaments in white and pink, to coordinate with the soft furnishings, plus touches of silver for added glamour.

I'm thrilled with the finished room – it feels so lovely to spend time in here and put my feet up – it's a sparkling success!

My shopping list

Wall paint, Dimpse modern emulsion, £42 per 2.5ltr; **woodwork paint**, All White estate eggshell, £53 per 2.5ltr, both Farrow & Ball. **Monroe sofa** in Romo Linara French Blue cotton linen union, £1,560; **footstool**, £299, both Freestyle of London. **Shutters**, £450, Nigel Hare Joinery. For similar **curtains** try Peony Garden Amethyst pencil pleat ready-made curtains, from £115, Laura Ashley. **Faux-fur throw**, from £60; embellished **cushion**, £16; grey mantel **clock**, all Next. Pure wool Raglan **rug**, £199; Conran pink **bell jar**, £19.50; bird bud **vase**, £9.50; stags **candleholder**, £45, all Marks & Spencer. Large rose **cushion cover**, £30, The Linen Works. Como **cushion** in silver, £25, John Lewis. Real **Christmas tree**, from £29.99; **wreath**, from £12.99, both Dobbies. Star **tree-topper** and silver-striped **baubles**, all part of a 50-piece decoration set, £10; **icicle** decorations, £2 for four; **hanging snowflakes**, £2.50; **3D star** decoration, £2 for four; **snowflake bead bauble**, £3.50 for four; silver glitter Christmas tree **candles**, from £2.50; large **reindeer**, £5, all Tesco Direct. Silver **stags**, from £6; lilac lace glass **bowl**, £5, all Wilko. Mango **wood letters**, £15 each, The Letterroom

Get Karen's LIVING ROOM LOOK

Mix shimmering silvers with blush pinks for a glamorous festive feel



MIRROR IMAGE

Decco mirror, £175,
Barker & Stonehouse



STAR STUDDED

Grey wooden stars, £19 for two,
Marquis & Dawe



THINK PINK

Bauble, £3.50,
Gisela Graham



LEAVE
SANTA A
LETTER!

HAVE A WORD

MDF wooden letter, £2,
Hobbycraft



PICTURE PERFECT

Star by Julien Macdonald frame,
£15, Debenhams



FANCY FIZZ

Half-hammered Champagne
bucket, £35, John Lewis



SNUGGLE UP

Sequin faux-fur cushion,
£8.99, Very



ROSY GLOW

Lene Bjerre Dante tealight in Blush,
£5.50, Houseology



TWEET BUY

Silver glitter bird, £3 for two,
Tesco Direct

Light up your CHRISTMAS

Lighting plays an important part in the festive home. Try these illuminating ways of getting some sparkle in your scheme



1 Light up other rooms

Don't forget the dining room when you're decorating it's a space you'll spend quite a bit of time in at Christmas! Perk up plain shelves by scattering star-shaped fairy lights and small tealight holders on them. If you do have space for a tree, dress it with twinkling fairy lights so you can dim the main lights while tucking into your Christmas dinner. **10 LED battery-operated silver star lights, £5.99, Dobbies**



4 SHOW SOME CHARACTER

Go for a contemporary look and choose 3D Christmas lights, which can be displayed to create a fun festive scene in a hallway, living room or outside on a porch. Always remember to check that fairy lights are suitable for external use before taking them outdoors. **Reindeer and sleigh lighting, £49.99, Homebase**

2 GO BEAR

Entertain the kids (and passers-by!) by installing fun, festive animal lights in your front garden. **Outdoor LED polar bear, £27.99, Garden Site**



3 Dress your decs

Give accessories a festive makeover with fairy lights. Light up a wreath, wrap round the banister or bunch them up in a vase. Add foliage to finish. **Naked wire lights, from £15.50 for 5-metre string; faux antler wreath, £25, both Cox & Cox**





5 ADD SHIMMER TO PLANTS

Go for something more contemporary for your front door and use outdoor LEDs in plants that are positioned by the doorway. These simple lights will bring a welcome glow to your home. £23.99 for a 10-metre string, LED Hut

6 OUTDOOR LIGHTS NEED TO BE PROPERLY INSTALLED AND POWERED BY THE CORRECT SOURCES – LED OPTIONS ARE BEST



7 Choose a vintage look

Make a feature of a vintage-inspired mirror on your mantelpiece by draping pretty waterfall lights from it to create a focal point. Finish with a selection of decorations and candles in cute jars – use metallic ornaments for a glamorous touch. LEDs are a good choice, as they are not only more eco-friendly, but they're kinder on the purse, too. To be extra-safe, consider using battery-powered lights, as these don't give off quite as much heat as electric lights do. **Soft white waterfall lights, £30, John Lewis**

8 Use the wall

Opt for a different lighting display by putting up a Christmas tree wallhanging and attaching fairy lights to the wall behind to glow through. Ideal for small rooms, where there isn't the space for a traditional tree, this is a cool and quirky alternative.

Typographic Christmas tree wallhanging, £50, Betsy Benn Designs



9 KNOW THE ROPES

Light up the room by displaying decorations and cute candleholders on this rope ladder tree, perfect for a plain wall. **Rope tree, from £25, The Contemporary Home**



10 BRANCH OUT

Illuminate a dark corner by stringing fairy lights round a twig tree. Or for something different, wrap a hat stand with lights in the hall. **Try Homebase for similar fairy lights. Walls painted in Calke Green estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball**

JUMP ON IT
Knitted jumper
bunting, £10

Get in the FESTIVE SPIRIT

Take inspiration from the bold American Christmas vibe with the Sainsbury's Happy Holidays range

Now the cool winter months are starting to creep in, it's time to transform your home with some festive cheer. With Sainsbury's new Happy Holidays range, combine berry reds with crisp whites for a cosy space to snuggle up in.

Mix together chunky Argyll knits and seasonal-inspired patterns for a vibrant scheme in your guest bedroom. Finish off the Yuletide vibe with the fun Christmas pudding cushion and Rudolph stocking! Because after all, it's the most wonderful time of the year...



**SHINE
A LIGHT**
Lit Joy
sign, £30



**BRIGHT
IDEA**

**SQUARE
DEAL**
Christmas
Wishes
cushion, £16



**LET IT
SNOW**
Christmas
Scene Light
Up Cloche, £12



TOP IT OFF
Christmas
Pudding
cushion, £14



Scatter some festive cushions on your bed for a seasonal touch



HANGING AROUND
Baubles, from £1.50 each

CHECKMATE

JS Red Brushed check bedlinen, £30 for a double



ROUND UP
Red bell wreath, £8

GREAT PRICE

POUR IT OUT

Happy Holidays Merry Christmas jug, £12



Stylists at Home



RACHEL SAYS

'If you choose your Christmas decorations carefully some of them could stay up all through the winter months, such as the red bell wreath and light up house.'

THE PERFECT GIFT



PLAYTIME
Large Light-up house, £8

RED HOT
Reindeer stocking, £3



SNAP IT UP
Snowman photo frame, £6



ESSENTIAL INFO

How to get a fab new look for your home

BE INSPIRED by Sainsbury's great-value homeware and accessories in store and check out its other stunning ranges.

TAKE A LOOK online at sainsburyshome.co.uk to discover the autumn/winter collections and to find your nearest store. The Happy Holidays range is available at selected Sainsbury's stores from 25 October 2015.

Sainsbury's

'It's perfect for **OUR FAMILY CHRISTMAS'**

Stylist at Home Jan, 53, decided to give up half of her garage to get the spacious family kitchen she'd always dreamed about

STYLE TIP

'Curve the corners of units if you have small children to avoid any bumped heads'

MY ROOM...



ABOUT ME I'm Jan Proto, 53, and I live with my husband Martin and our dog Inca in our three-bedroom detached home in Hertfordshire. Our two children have now both moved out, and we have two grandchildren, Daisy and Finley.

MY CHALLENGE To create one large kitchen-diner by knocking through the old small dining room and kitchen space and expanding into one half of the garage. My aim was to keep the project on budget and finish in time for Christmas.

MY WISH LIST We wanted a modern but rustic-style kitchen-diner that's a sociable space to accommodate the growing family. A large dining table was a must as we entertain the family on a regular basis, and with two grandchildren running around I wanted a safe environment for them to be in, too.

SITTING PRETTY

'By creating a slight overhang on the kitchen island, visitors can perch in comfort on the workers stools from Cox & Cox, £130 each'





DINNER IS SERVED
 'We now have a dining space large enough to fit all the family'

We've lived here for 16 years, initially with our children, James and Gemma, who have now grown up, left home and have families of their own,' says Jan.

'Over the years, the kitchen had started to feel a little bit dated. Because I love to entertain I'd always wanted a large open-plan kitchen-diner, and with our growing family this was a perfect chance to extend.

Making plans

We were lucky to have a double-length garage and decided to knock through from the kitchen and dining area into one half of it. Although this meant losing space in the garage, I knew we wouldn't miss it, as we never used it for both cars anyway. Then we also decided to extend into the roof of the garage to create an office.

Rather than do the work ourselves, we called in a building company and a project manager. This ensured that the kitchen would be finished in three months – just in time for Christmas. The structural work was completed quickly, but knocking down the internal walls took a long time. However, once the new ones were plastered, the whole space seemed to take shape. Before we knew it, I was choosing a kitchen.

Decision time

I'd seen a few styles I liked, but I loved the colour of the Carisbrooke taupe framed units from B&Q and the wooden worktops were amazing. We had some designs drawn up, but eventually we decided on the ➤

TOTAL
£6,250
 TURN OVER FOR
 MY SHOPPING
 LIST



For more inspiration and to shop for kitchen accessories, visit theroomedit.com

MIX IT UP

'Mod cons combine with rustic elements for a characterful but functional touch'



GET IN LINE

'The trio of lights above the dining table are great when we sit down to eat'

GREAT IDEA

'Create a practical, easy-to-navigate layout for a busy family kitchen'



IN PLAIN SIGHT

'By having the sink directly in front of the window, I can look out into the garden while washing up'

'GOLD AND COPPER ACCESSORIES SET THE SCENE FOR CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINING, BUT THEY ADD SOME GLAMOUR THAT WORKS ALL YEAR ROUND, TOO'

My shopping list

Cooke & Lewis Carisbrooke taupe framed **kitchen**, from £130; Beech **worktop**, £87; Smeg DOSC34X **oven**, £400; Astracast Belfast **sink**, £194, all B&Q. Smeg MP322X **microwave**, £339, Appliances Direct. Chalkboard/tablet **stand**, £10.99, Typhoon Housewares. Smeg SER6SGH3 gas **hob**, £255; Bosch DWA094W51B **chimney hood**, £388, both John Lewis. Oka wood-effect **flooring**, £23 per sq m, Karndean. Ottawa **pendant**, £35 each; Kroby **pendant**, £10 each, both Ikea. White Bevel brick **tiles**, £19.99 per sq m, Johnson Tiles. **Toaster**, £199.95; **kettle**, £129.99, both Dualit. **Letter lights**, £33 each, Notonthehighstreet.com. Midas 16-piece gold **cutlery**, £20; **canisters**, £5 each; **baubles**, £1, all George Home. Copper **candleholder**, £16, Oliver Bonas. James Martin 12-piece **dinner set**, £63; Bormioli **flutes**, £12 for four; wine **glasses**, £12 for four; all Denby. Copper **pans**, from £19.97; **casserole dish**, £29.99, all Lakeland

» L-shape layout with a central island. I left the appliances to Martin as he enjoys online shopping and hunting around for deals, especially as I insisted on a few Smeg appliances.

We wanted a rustic feel, and decided on wooden worktops with curved edges so there were no sharp corners. We also chose wood-effect flooring, as it's very comfy on the feet and easy to clean, especially with grandchildren around!

With everything being quite dark, we lightened up the room with white metro tiles behind the cooker and white walls for an airy feel. I bought my Isabelle table and Brioche chairs from Loaf some years

Stylists at Home



JAY SAYS

'Jan's kitchen is really beautiful and the copper accessories give it a smart look. You could add a splash of colour if you wanted a slightly more vibrant feel.'

ago and they're ideal. I also had some old dressers painted grey to complement the scheme.

Finishing touches

With the festive season close by, I noticed a lot of copper and gold accessories, which inspired me to include a few wire pieces and a copper pan set. I also had several thoughts about window dressings. Eventually, I chose dusky-coloured blinds and left the French windows without curtains to encourage the light to stream into the room.

I'm really looking forward to Christmas this year as I can have all the family round and we've space to sit and enjoy dinner in my now favourite place.'

Get Jan's KITCHEN LOOK

Love this scheme? Check out our round-up of gorgeous buys



PERFECT PENDANT

Fit three in a row above your table. Garden Trading Battersea light, £60, Houseology



FEELING TOASTY

Pop on your counter for some glamour. Distinta two-slot toaster, £79.99, De'Longhi



SMART LOOK

GREY MATTER

Hang on your oven. J by Jasper Conran tea towels, £15 for three, Debenhams



UNDER FOOT

Choose a warm finish. Country Oak wood-effect floor tile, £33.53 per sq m, Harvey Maria



WHAT A PAIR!

Start your day with a compliment. Mugs, £12.99 each, H&M



BE BRIGHT

Add a personal touch. Battery-operated letter light, £33, Notonthehighstreet.com



SLEEK STYLE

Rustle up some dinner. Oxo Good Grips 16cm covered saucepan, £59.99, Lakeland



TALL ORDER

Go for a sleek, stylish look. 30-litre flip bin, £84, Brabantia



HEAVY METAL

Use when entertaining. 16-piece copper cutlery set, £32, Next

Make an ENTRANCE

Sophisticated silver and green decorations create an elegantly festive hallway that will wow your guests

When it comes to decking the halls at Christmas time, traditional boughs of holly always look wonderful, and there's also plenty of other fresh seasonal greenery to experiment with, from lush variegated ivy to silver-tinged eucalyptus.

Drape it over mirrors and wind it up the banisters, and mix with shimmering silver decorations, glass candleholders and white accessories to create a stunning scene when you open the front door.

Dress mirror tops

Hang a garland over a mirror or picture frames – create your own with ivy cuttings from the garden, and add eucalyptus for scent. **For a faux garland, try the white berry garland, £34, The Contemporary Home**

Go for a garland

Decorating banisters with a lush, ready-made garland is a glamorous touch.

Take a trip to Hobbycraft for silver spray paints and embellishments to add personalised elements to your shop-bought design.

Add a tree

Set the scene with a tree, from full-sized to a mini tabletop version in a pot. Or even fill a vase with twigs and hang baubles on them.

Try the Scandinavian White Fir artificial tree, £119.99, Vert Lifestyle

Keep order

Designate a spot where visitors can store their winter coats, bags and scarves – an additional freestanding coat rack and extra shoe storage can be very useful.

Try the metal coat stand, £54.99, Argos

Light the way

Candlelight creates a cosy, Christmassy feel. Clear any bits and pieces off your hallway table, then layer on candles, fresh foliage and pretty festive ornaments.

Vintage bird cage, £22.50, Pastel Lane, is like this

Bring in a basket

Fill a basket with presents for guests as they arrive, and tuck it under a console. Use giftwrap that complements your hallway's decor, and top the gifts with stylish bows. Choice Baskets has a wide selection of similar styles

IN THE ROUND

Beningbrough mirror, £75, The Chandelier & Mirror Company

GO BLUE

Teal glass bauble, £1, Poundland

WELL LIT

Becker table lamp, £72, Dar Lighting

Dress your hall
GET THE LOOK

Check out these smart buys to give your hall a seasonal feel

BERRY NICE

180cm garland, £19, Very

SO CHEEP

Birdcage, £12.99, HomeSense

GLAD TIDINGS

Christmas word tree, £6, Bhs

RUSTIC FINISH

Newport whitewashed console table, £175, Alexander & Pearl

TOTAL
£438

Create a seasonal display on a slimline console table



Subscribe to *Style at Home* at magazinesdirect.com/CLP5 to receive more stylish hallway ideas.

CHIC CERAMICS

Give plants pride of place. Geometric pot, £12.95, MiaFleur



WATER WORKS

Choose a sleek design. Cooke & Lewis Bamboo basin mixer tap, £82, B&Q



SCRUB UP WELL

Add a funky pattern. Geo Ceramic toilet brush, £8, George Home



FINE LINES

Mix and match designs. Geo towels, from £4; Geo dispenser, £5; stripe bath mat, £8, all George Home



CITRUS SHADES

Add colour to walls. St James yellow gloss metro tiles, £19.95 per sq m, Walls and Floors



TIME TO REFLECT

Go for clean and contemporary accessories. Acrylic blue wall mirror, £55, Oliver Bonas



Modern GEOMETRICS

Refresh your bathroom for Christmas with striking patterns in a punchy blue and yellow palette

SOFT LANDING

Step onto a striped bath mat. Bobble mat, £8, Wilko



ATTRACTIVE STORAGE

Keep clutter at bay. Round wire storage basket, £39, Vincent and Barn



STORE TOWELS INSTYLE

SWEET SCENT

Unwind with a fresh fragrance. Reed diffuser in Sicilian Lemon, £32, Orla Kiely



IN THE BAG

Put small toiletries in one place. Crazy Maze PVC print cosmetic pouch, £18, Velvet Mutineer



FINISHING TOUCH

Accessorise with bright objects. Teal-dipped soap dispenser, £5, Tesco Direct



BLUE MOOD

Inject pattern with towels. Zig zag teal towels, from £12, House of Fraser



INSPIRATION
NOW COMES
WITH UP TO
1/3 OFF



Silvabirch Alpine Shimmer™



Callan Brick™



Regional Reflections Cottesmore™



Francisco Segarra York



Shapes Hexagon Unglazed Biscuit



Woodgrain Bayur Borneo

Topps Tiles

INSPIRATION
ALL LAID OUT

toppstiles.co.uk



The Perfect Gift This Christmas

Treat yourself or a loved one to a place on KLC My Design School

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*Course RRP £399. Offer ends 3rd January 2016.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH **Style**atHome

WIN! *An amazing new bathroom*

Enter now for your chance to choose your dream scheme from Bathroom Takeaway

WIN!
£2,000
TOTAL PRIZE VALUE

Style at Home has teamed up with Bathroom Takeaway to offer one lucky reader the chance to win £750 towards a new bathroom and £1,250 towards installation costs. So what's stopping you from seeing if your room will be the one to get a great new look?

Is your bathroom looking a bit tired, and in need of a makeover? If you long to give it a fresh feel but haven't had the finances to turn your vision into reality, enter our brilliant competition today and you could win a gleaming new scheme.

Takeaway style

With more than 100,000 bathroom products in stock, Bathroom Takeaway makes choosing your new scheme simple. Select from the latest range of chic bathroom suites offering luxurious styling, exceptional quality and great value for money, and create a bathroom to be proud of. Once you've decided the look you're after, simply pick and mix from the huge choice of designer-quality styles on the website, click to order, then wait for them to be delivered straight to your door.

FOR MORE INFORMATION call 0333 305 8200 or visit bathroomtakeaway.co.uk



SMARTLOOK

A new white suite gives a fresh feel to any bathroom

TERMS & CONDITIONS One winner will receive £750 towards a new bathroom and £1,250 towards installation. No cash alternative. Competition open to UK mainland entrants only. The winner will be contacted directly to arrange delivery. The promoter is Style at Home. Prizes supplied by Bathroom Takeaway. Employees cannot enter. Prize is subject to availability. Service provider is Spoke 0333 202 3390. *When you enter by text you may get SMS marketing messages from Time Inc. (UK) Ltd and Style at Home. If you don't want to, end text with NO INFO. Lines open at 00.01am on 21 October 2015 and close at midnight on 9 December 2015. See page 129 for full terms and conditions.



4 ways to enter

PHONE Call 0904 160 0655 and leave your answer, name, address and phone number. Calls cost £1.45 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

TEXT SAHWIN2 followed by a space and your answer, then your name, house number and postcode to 87088*. Texts cost £1.50 per entry plus your network charges.

POST Fill in the coupon and send to Bathroom Takeaway/SAH Dec comp, PO Box 502, Leicester LE94 0AB.

ONLINE Visit housetohome.co.uk/competitions.

Phone lines open on 21 October 2015 and close at midnight on 9 December 2015. Postal entries must arrive by 12 December 2015. SP: Spoke Ltd 0333 202 3390.

ENTRY FORM

Send to Bathroom Takeaway/SAH December competition, PO Box 502, Leicester LE94 0AB

StyleatHome

QUESTION Which of these things would you do in a bathroom?

A) Shower B) Sleep C) Cook

ANSWER

Mrs/Ms/Miss/Mr/Title First name Surname

Address (BLOCK CAPITALS)

..... Postcode

Daytime phone number Home phone number

Email address Year of birth

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December's HOME SAVER

Our top fixes for household dilemmas and money-saving tips

Get deep cleaning

Tackle tricky areas and make your home look spick and span

BATHROOM BLITZ Remove limescale on taps and tiles with a specialist cleaner, then buff with a dry cloth. Tackle tough deposits by soaking a cotton wool ball in cleaner and leaving it to work. Unscrew shower heads and immerse in the cleaner.

FIX SLOW-DRAINING WATER by pouring a drain unblocker (available from about £2 in supermarkets and DIY stores) down plugholes. Pick up a bottle of mould and mildew cleaner to remove ugly black marks. Simply spray on, leave to work and rinse.

WASH WINDOWS AND DOORS Access hard-to-reach areas with a long-handled mop on the end of a pole, such as the Addis 3-in-1 window cleaning system (£11.99), or try the Trigger Mop from Lakeland, which has a built-in water tank (£29.99).

CLEAN FLOORS AND CARPETS A cordless spray mop such as the Vileda 100°C Hot Spray Mop (£59.99) combines hot water and a microfibre pad to give hard flooring a deep clean. Hire your own carpet cleaner – see rugdoctor.co.uk for stockists.

HELP APPLIANCES WORK BETTER Grease, limescale and food in a dishwasher, and limescale and detergent residues in your washing machine can make both appliances underperform. Dr Beckmann Service-it Deep Clean products are available for both machines, £2.99 each.



THAT'S NEAT
Keeping your cleaning materials organised makes for easier housework

HANDY HELPERS

Organise under-sink storage space and keep things in order to make the most of this cupboard



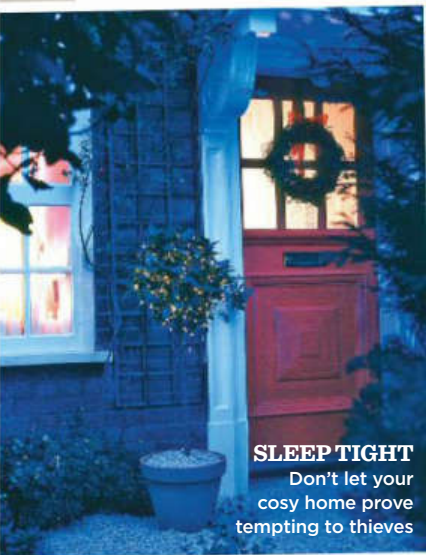
KEEP IT NEAT
Use all space under the sink with an organiser that creates shelves, keeping cleaning products and cloths neatly at hand, £21.99, Addis



TIDY FIX
Tame the chaos of carrier bags by storing them in a holder that slips over the top of cupboard doors. Carrier bag holder, £12, aplaceforeverything.co.uk



BOTTLE IT
Keep bottles in reach at the back of the cupboard with the Roll Out Bin from Oxo Good Grips. A drop-down foot prevents items toppling out. £15.50, Lakeland



SLEEP TIGHT
Don't let your cosy home prove tempting to thieves

STAY SAFE

It's vital to think about security, and SafeChoice has these tips to make your home safer

LOCK IT UP

Remember to securely lock all your doors and windows. Fit a burglar alarm and ensure it is clearly visible to potential thieves. Keep any valuables and all house and car keys out of sight.

STREET SMARTS

Fit outside security lighting to your house. Join your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. When recycling, fold up any packaging

that offers a clue to what your home contains.

KEEP MUM

Take care what personal information you share on social media (such as telling everyone when you are going on holiday). Make your home look occupied while you are out or away on holiday by using lights on timers and asking a trusted neighbour or family member to pop in and check everything is OK.

INVEST IN A CANARY - THE LATEST SECURITY DEVICE THAT SYNCs TO YOUR SMARTPHONE, £159, AMAZON

All in the details...

HANG A CURTAIN POLE

Get it right first time with these simple steps



1 Mark the points where you want the curtain brackets to be (approx 10cm above and 10cm either side of the frame). Use a spirit level and a bracket to mark where the holes need to be then drill holes and insert wall fixings.



2 Hold the bracket in place and use screws to fix it to the wall. Repeat with the second bracket. Add all but two curtain rings to the pole, keep them in the centre, and fit the pole in the brackets. Tighten the screws to hold the pole in place.



3 Add one ring to either end of the brackets, fit the finials to keep them in place, then hang your curtains.



Tweet the team at **#askSAH** with your photos, decorating dilemmas and tips.

3 apps for... CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

Feel fabulously festive with these Christmassy apps



ELF YOURSELF

Put your face and those of family or friends on the bodies of dancing elves and send to them. Sounds simple? It is, but it's one of the most smile-inducing e-cards there is.



SLEEPS TO CHRISTMAS LITE

Perfect for kids so they know how long until Santa comes, as well as reminding you how much time you have left to get organised. An easy-to-glance-at character with a sign tells you how many sleeps (or hours, or minutes) there are to go, accompanied by cheerful music.



3D GINGERBREAD CHRISTMAS RUNNING

Guide the gingerbread man along a road avoiding obstacles and collecting gold stars for a fun festive-themed game.



DARKSIDE

Create a cocooning feel with a dramatic paint colour

You ask us...

Q I'm redecorating my living room and want to try a strong colour. How do I choose?

Dark colours make a room dramatic and cosy but take your time to select the right shade. Never choose paint in a bright DIY store. Buy several tester pots and paint onto white A4 card. Blu-Tack the card to the wall of the room you're decorating to see how they will look, and remember the colour will be

darkest on the windows wall, and lightest on the opposite.

Dulux has an app for iPad, iPhone and Android that lets you see how your rooms will look in over 1,000 different colours. Using the camera to snap the room, you can then choose a colour to virtually 'paint' on the wall. You can then order tester pots.

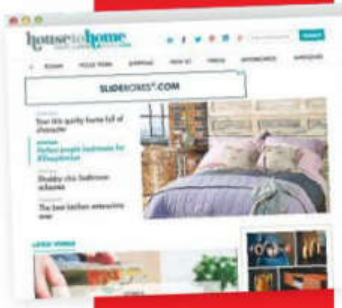
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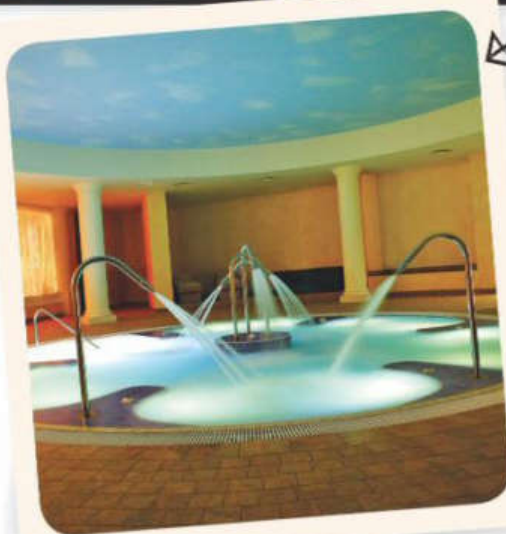
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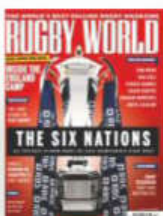
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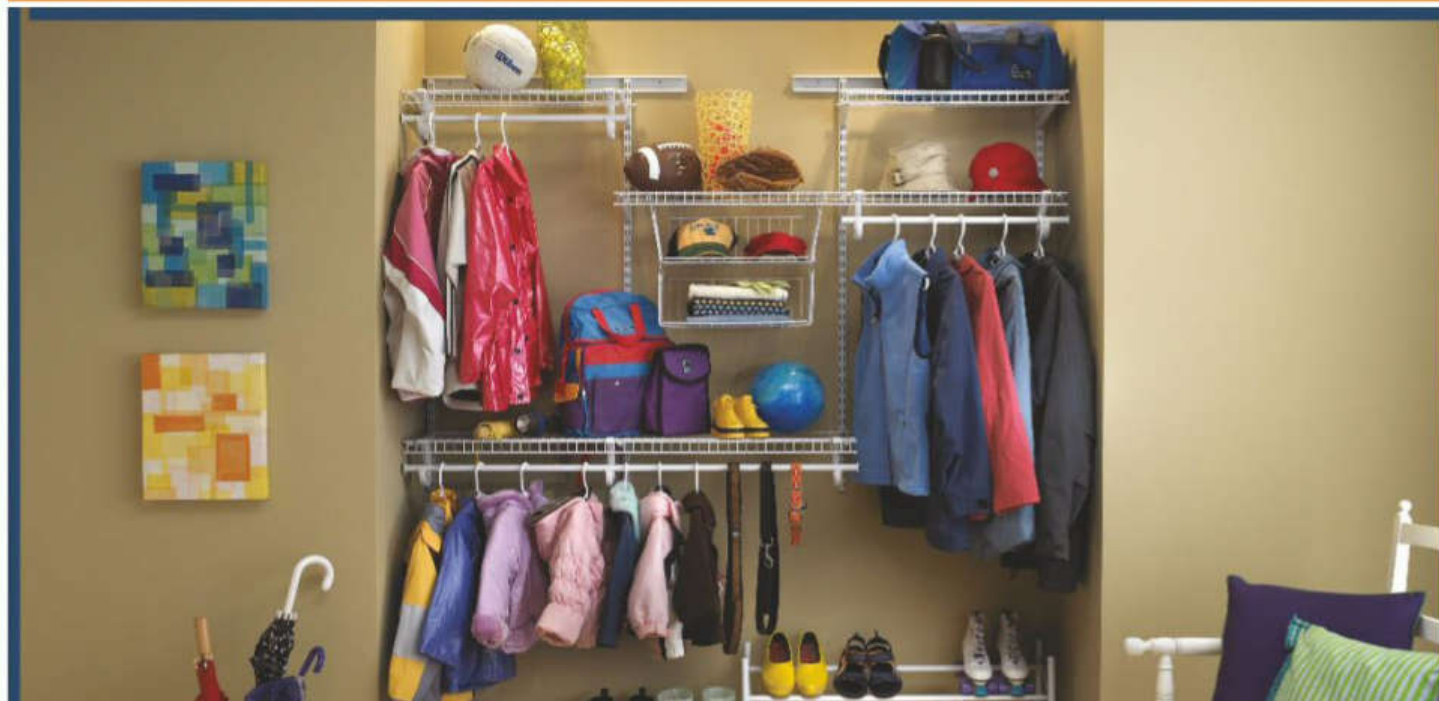


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BATHROOM TAKEAWAY One winner will receive £750 towards a new bathroom and £1250 towards installation. No cash alternative. Competition open to UK mainland entrants only. Prize subject to availability. Lines open at 00.01am on 21 October 2015 and close at midnight on 9 November 2015. Winners' details can be provided by contacting Style at Home, Time Inc. (UK) Ltd, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU from 15 December 2015. **T&Cs** Entry instructions form part of the rules. Competitions open to readers aged over 18 resident in UK mainland only, other than employees (and their families) of Time Inc. (UK) Ltd, the reproduction house and printer of Style at Home, Bathroom Takeaway and their agents. Use of a false name or address will result in disqualification. Entries must be made by person entering the competition. Winners will be drawn at random by an independent person. No bulk or third party entries accepted. One entry per person. Prizes subject to availability and the prize suppliers' T&Cs. Reasonable efforts will be made to contact a winner. Failure to respond and/or give a delivery address, or failure to meet eligibility requirements may result in forfeiture of prize. If winner cannot be contacted or is unable to comply with the T&Cs, the promoter reserves the right to offer the prize to the next eligible entrant. Style at Home reserves the right to offer a prize of greater or equal value. All prizes must be accepted as offered with no cash alternative and are limited to the prizes detailed. Prizes cannot be used in conjunction with other offers or promotions. Winner is responsible for expenses and arrangements not specifically included in the prizes. All details and prizes are correct at time of going to press. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. No responsibility accepted for entries that are lost, delayed or damaged in the post. No correspondence can be entered into and no entry returned. The winner will be notified by email by Style at Home after the closing date. Entry implies acceptance of these rules. The winner must co-operate with publicity arising from winning a competition.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Liven up a blank wall with playful flags. Festive Family Christmas bunting, £4.95, Dotcomgiftshop

FINISHING TOUCHES

Fill with goodies on Christmas Eve. Knitted stocking, £1, Poundland

SNOW CAPPED

Style tables with cute decorations. Brush Christmas tree, from £2.99, Dunelm

SPARKLY BEAD DETAIL

JINGLE BELLS

Complete the look with coordinating accessories. Red alarm clock, £4.99, HomeSense

A TOUCH OF GLASS

Create a winter wonderland. Tree hurricane lamp, £10, Sainsbury's

MAKE WITH THE KIDS!

SWEET TREAT

Give overnight guests a midnight snack. Gingerbread house, £10, Bhs

HEAVEN SCENT

Set the scene with a Yuletide scent. Vanilla Epices scented candle, £7.50, Marks & Spencer

COSY UP

Add a festive touch with a novelty pillow. Tinsel Tangle cushion, £6, Tesco Direct

INTO THE WILD

Give a wall a seasonal makeover. Stag canvas, £10, Wilko

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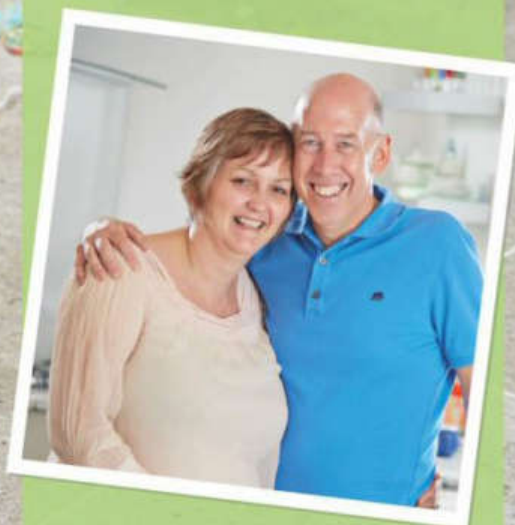
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Jeremy & Vanessa's Story

"I'd always decided that I was going to have a big party for my 50th. One of my friends enjoyed it so much they said - Never mind Glastonbury, this is Jezfest!"

"We turned the hallway into a dancefloor in previous years whereas now having an open plan room and nice flooring we were able to congregate in here, confident that we didn't have to worry about anything happening to the floor."

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